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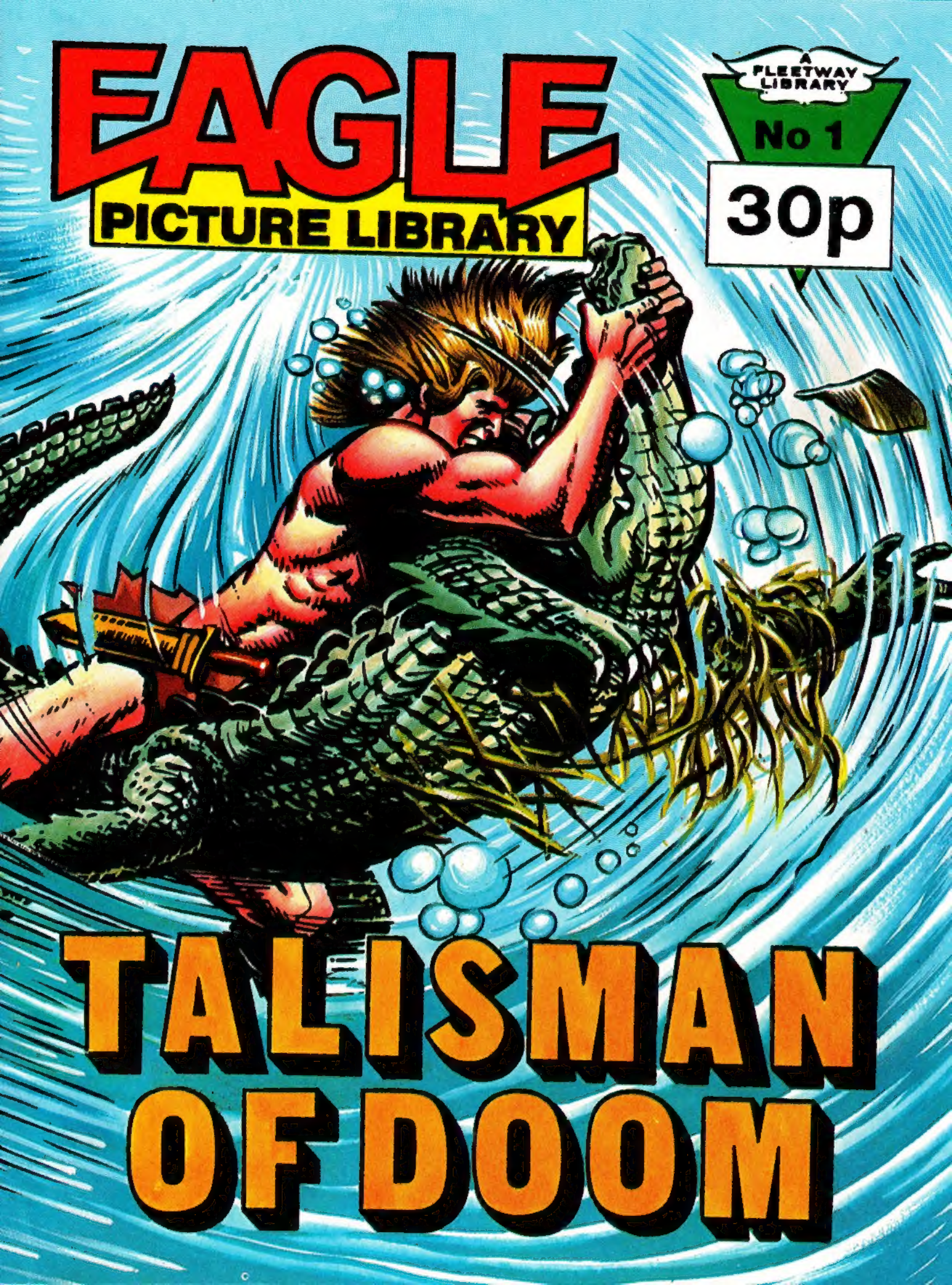

TALISMAN OF DOOM

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO ENJOY IN THE NEW-LOOK...

IT'S NINE POWERFUL STORIES MAKE IT THE BEST COMIC READ FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES!

ON SALE EVERY MONDAY Price 24p

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ALL YOUR FAVOURITES!

DAN DARE · BILLY'S BOOTS
ROBO MACHINES · DOOMLORD
DEATH WISH · GOLDEN BOY
STAR RIDER · THIRTEENTH FLOOR
PLUS THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
PLUS SUPER FREEBIES AND FEATURES!

TALISMAN OF DOOM

AWARREEEEEE! O MALDU THE CROCODILE, I HAVE WARNED YOU BEFORE!
BROUGHT UP IN THE JUNGLE, SABER HAD AN UNCANNY POWER OVER EVEN THE MOST SAVAGE OF THE BEASTS THAT LIVED THERE.

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PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

I—KARGAN—DECIDE WHERE YOU HUNT, O SCALY ONE! YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO MY TERRITORY.
STRANGE ONLOOKERS GATHERED AS THE FANTASTIC BATTLE RAGED...
YOU TIRE FIRST, MALDU! GO—DO NOT DISOBEY ME AGAIN. NEXT TIME I USE MY STEEL FANG!
MY FRIENDS, MEN SAY ANIMALS DO NOT HAVE INTELLIGENCE. BUT YOU — PROVE THEM TO BE WRONG.

HIDE! IT IS CHUCK-CHUCK BOAT! STRANGERS — WHITE HUNTERS! IN AREA WHERE MEN MUST NOT HUNT.
ZEKE, TAKE HER INTO THE BANK AND START TO MOOR! WE'VE TIME TO SPARE AND I'M IN A KILLING MOOD. A RHINOCEROS HORN CAN EARN US A LOT OF MONEY.
PARDOE, THIS ISN'T SMART! WE HAVE ORDERS TO GET BACK IMMEDIATELY. WE DON'T WANT TROUBLE WITH GAME WARDENS...
YOU GET SMART—I DO THE DECIDING. OR ARE YOU ANXIOUS TO GET TROUBLE FROM ME?
BEAKY ONE, WE MAKE SURE THERE'S NO KILLING...

IN A CLEARING WAS A GREAT HOLLOW TREE...
BEAT THE ALARM CALL! OUR FRIENDS, THE WILD JUNGLE DWELLERS, WILL KNOW I TELL THEM TO FLEE.
BOOM BOOM-BAM BOOM-BOOM
AS THE GONG-LIKE BEATS THUNDERED...
BOOM BOOM-BAM BOOM-B
TRIBAL DRUMS! EVERYTHING'S RUNNING!
YOU STUPID FOOL, YOU COULDN'T TELL THE SOUND OF AN ALARM-CLOCK! THAT'S NO TRIBAL DRUM! BUT IT'S FINISHED ANY CHANCE OF A SHOT.

IT'S A CHIMP! HEY THERE'S A CLEVER LITTLE BRUTE.
SABER'S PARROT SHRIEKED A WARNING, AND...
WHAT THE HECK...!
AWWARREEE!
AGH... MISSED!
THEN...
O MAN, THERE WILL BE NO SECOND SHOT! I- SABER — ORDERED THE TREE STRUCK.
PARDOE — LOOK OUT!
YOU DID? NOW THAT WASN'T HELPFUL! HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT A HEAVY BULLET CAN DO TO THE KNEE OF AN ATHLETE — MY HEROIC FRIEND?
THE BRONZE FORM WAS A BLUR OF SWIFT MOVEMENT...
KERACK!
JACKAL — YOU ARE LESS THAN THAT COWARDLY BEAST!

ZEKE, GET HIM! HE WANTS IT ROUGH, HE CAN HAVE IT!
I—AUGH!
NOW TRY THE TASTE OF THE HOOKTHORN!
CONTEMPTUOUSLY SABER SMASHED THE RIFLES...
I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS...
NOT WITHOUT YOUR HAND-GUNS — AND CHEEK! HAS THOSE!

AAARGH !
YOU ARE HONOURED — A FRIEND HAS BROUGHT TUSKER. BE THANKFUL HE SEEKS TO COOL YOUR BLOOD AND NOT SHED IT. HE IS IN GENEROUS MOOD.

AS THE LAUNCH CHUGGED AWAY...
I'LL REMEMBER YOU! HOW I'LL REMEMBER YOU! ONE DAY—JUST ONE DAY AND...
DON'T ANNOY HIM! THE BRUTE ELEPHANT'S FOLLOWING...

SABER SWUNG BACK TO HIS HOME...

AWAREEEEEE! THE KILLER-HUNTERS ARE GONE! YOU MAY BREATHE AGAIN, MY FRIENDS OF THE JUNGLE... BUT WHERE IS CHEEKI?

CHEEKI HAD RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF THE STRUGGLE. THERE HE FOUND SOMETHING...

...WHICH MADE THE LITTLE CHIMP CHATTER WITH FRIGHT AND SPEED FOR HOME.

CHEEKI, WHAT IS IT? YOU SHOW FEAR! EVEN SALU THE CHEETAH BACKS AWAY. GIVE IT TO ME!

MEANWHILE...

THE TAAL TALISMAN— I CAN'T FIND IT! IT IS MISSING!

THAT THING GAVE ME THE SHUDDERS...

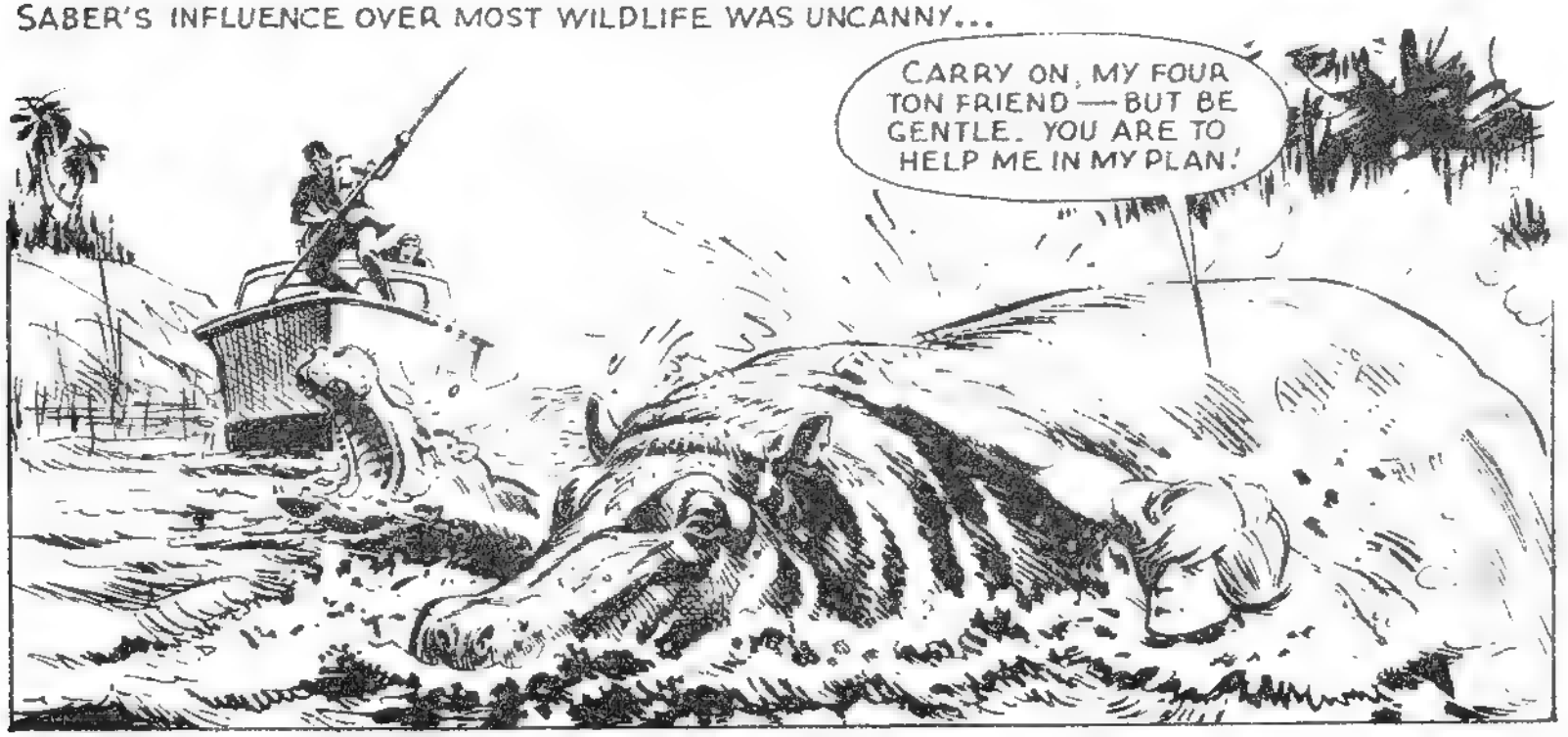
CREEDAN PAID US TO FETCH THE TALISMAN. HE—HE'D KILL US IF HE THOUGHT WE'D DOUBLE-CROSSED HIM. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

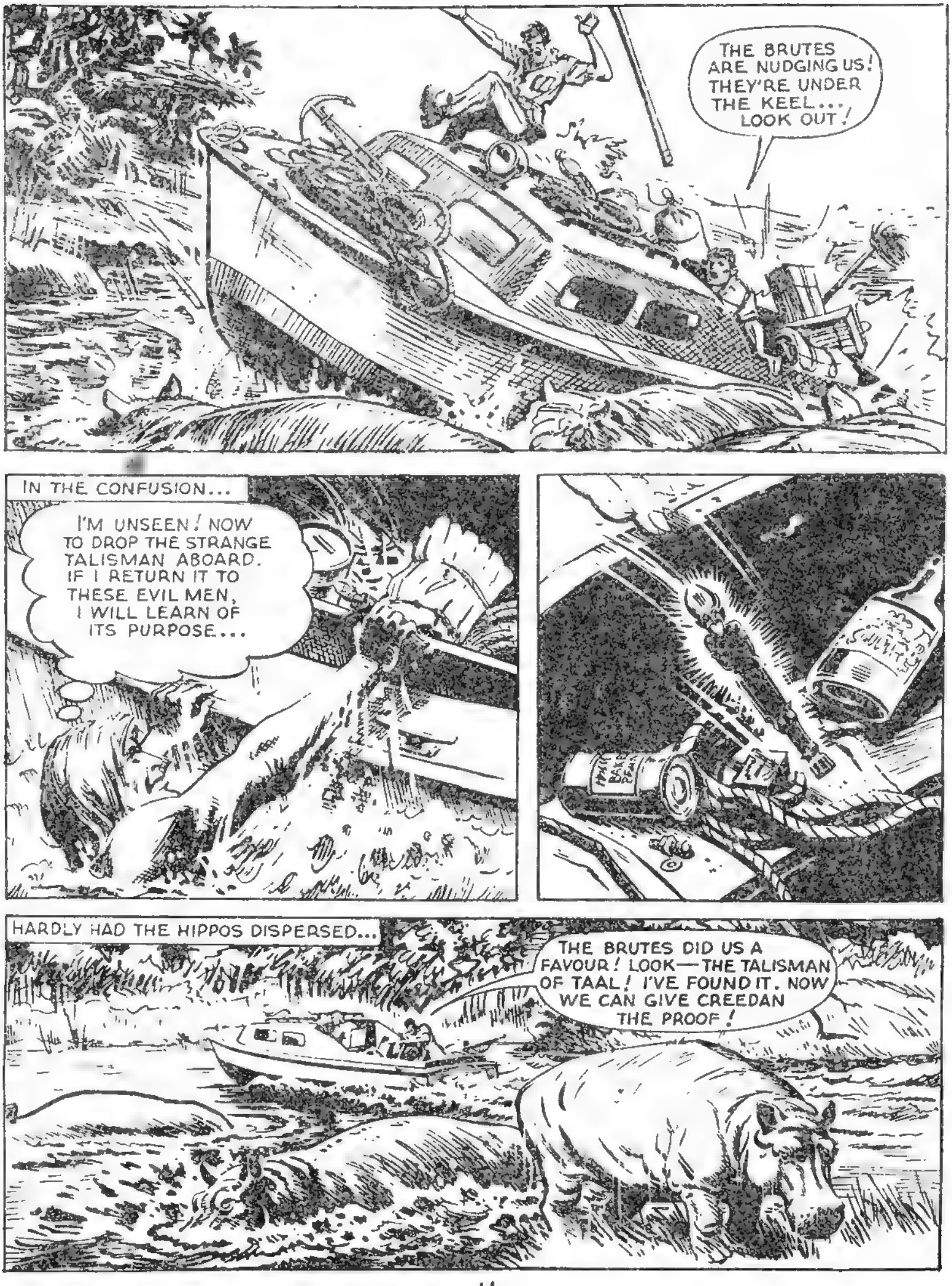
I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING. MAYBE WE'LL STILL FIND THE FOUL THING. WE DAREN'T DELAY MEETING HIM. BE THANKFUL THAT HE NEEDS US—ALIVE!

THIS IS EVIL — I SENSE BLOOD — AND WITCHCRAFT! IT IS OLD, TOO, OLD AS THE WILD JUNGLE GODS. CHEEKI, WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
SO — IT WAS DROPPED DURING THE FIGHT. ONE OF THE WHITE HUNTERS DROPPED IT! I MUST FOLLOW — FIND OUT WHY THEY CARRIED IT. ALREADY I SMELL MUCH DANGER!
THE TALISMAN REEKS OF EVIL AND WITCHCRAFT... WHY DID THE HUNTERS CARRY IT?
BELOW, CHEEKI THE CHIMP GAMBOLLED ON CARELESSLY. SUDDENLY A RIPPLING FORM MOVED THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH...
CHEEKI — BEWARE! DANGER! THE LEOPARD PREPARES TO SPRING!
AWARREEEEE! MEET SABER, O KILLER OF THE WEAK!

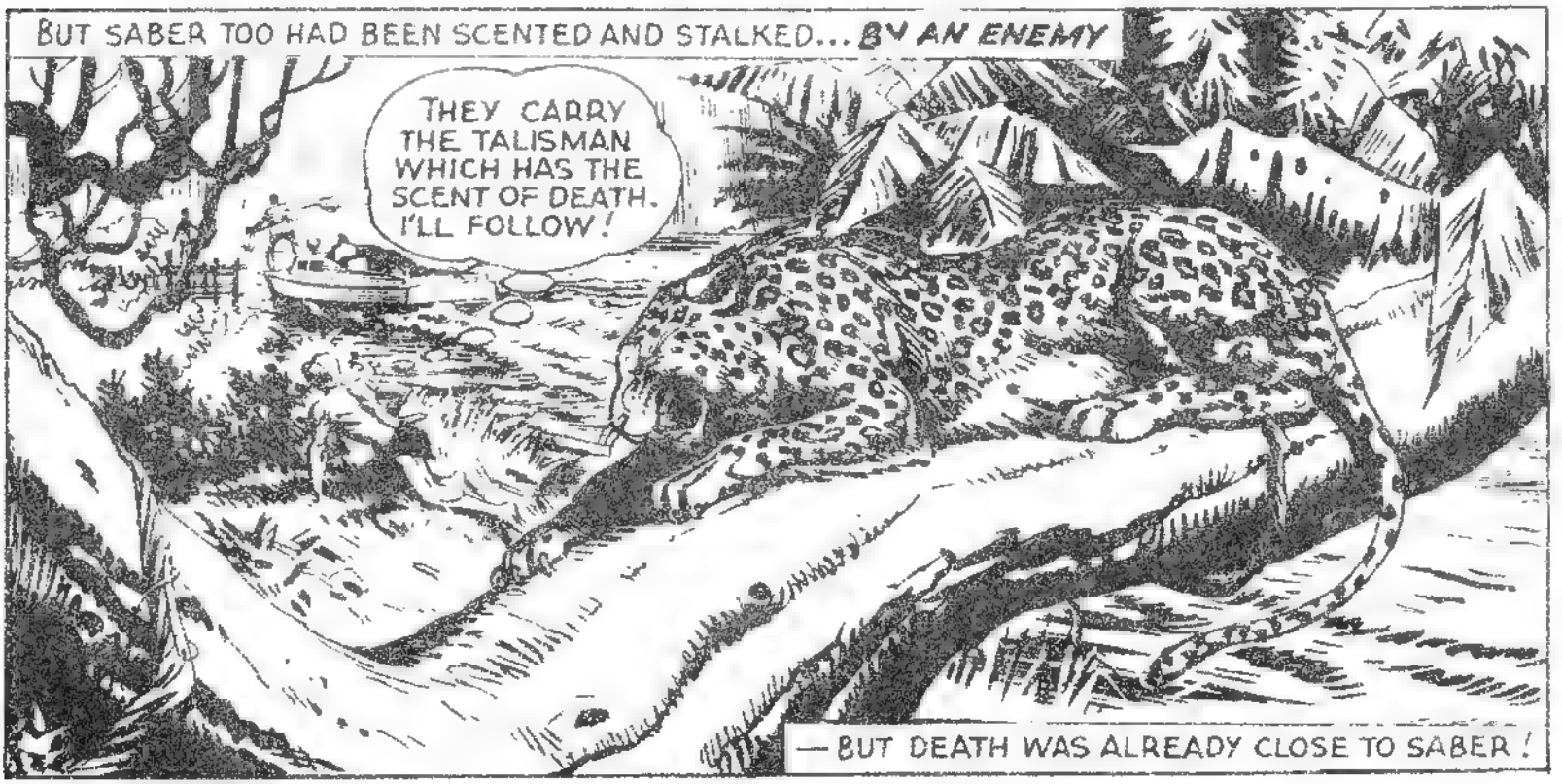
SUDDENLY THE WATER HEAVED IN FRONT OF THEM...
HIPPOS! THE BRUTES ARE COMING TOWARDS US!
SLOW DOWN! IF WE RAM THEM, THEY'LL RIP THIS TUB APART.

SABER'S INFLUENCE OVER MOST WILDLIFE WAS UNCANNY...




THE BRUTES ARE NUDGING US! THEY'RE UNDER THE KEEL... LOOK OUT!
IN THE CONFUSION...
I'M UNSEEN! NOW TO DROP THE STRANGE TALISMAN ABOARD. IF I RETURN IT TO THESE EVIL MEN, I WILL LEARN OF ITS PURPOSE...
HARDLY HAD THE HIPPOS DISPERSED...
THE BRUTES DID US A FAVOUR! LOOK—THE TALISMAN OF TAAL! I'VE FOUND IT. NOW WE CAN GIVE CREEDAN THE PROOF!

SABER WAS TOWED BY THE KNIFE HE HAD DRIVEN INTO THE HULL...
SO NOW IT'LL BE SAFE TO SEE CREEDAN? HE'D KILL US IF HE THOUGHT WE'D DOUBLE-CROSSED HIM.
HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN A HOODED COBRA. BUT HE'LL BE IN A GOOD MOOD WHEN WE HAND HIM THIS LITTLE PIECE OF BLACK IVORY.
THEY MEAN TO LAND AT THE SETTLEMENT! I'LL TRACK THEM TO WHERE THEY MEET THIS DANGEROUS ONE NAMED CREEDAN... SOON I'LL LEARN WHAT THE TALISMAN MEANS!


BUT SABER TOO HAD BEEN SCENTED AND STALKED... BY AN ENEMY
THEY CARRY THE TALISMAN WHICH HAS THE SCENT OF DEATH. I'LL FOLLOW!
—BUT DEATH WAS ALREADY CLOSE TO SABER!

GENERAL STORE
THE JACKALS SHALL LEAD ME TO THE DANGEROUS ONE CALLED CREEDAN. I NEED TO LEARN WHAT THE EVIL TALISMAN MEANS!

SUDDENLY THERE WAS A BLURRED MOVEMENT — AND SABER REACTED WITH THE SPEED OF THE WILDS...
IT IS ONE-EYE — THE KILLER!

THE LEOPARD'S CLAWS CAN FELL AN OX! IF HE MANAGES TO TURN ON ME, I AM FOOD FOR THE VULTURES!
MEANWHILE, PARDOE AND ZEKE KEPT THEIR APPOINTMENT...
HERE IT IS, CREEDAN — THE TALISMAN OF TAAL! THAT PROVES THE SUCCESS OF OUR JOURNEY.
I WAS WORRYING ABOUT YOU. WORRYING ABOUT HOW LONG YOU'D LIVE IF YOU LET ME DOWN.
RIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU THE CARGO. RETURN AND COMPLETE THE DEAL. FIND THE LOST CITY OF TAAL. BRING OUT WHAT YOU HAVE TO COLLECT... WAIT, WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION OUTSIDE?

SWIM, ONE-EYE! YOU HATE WATER AS MUCH AS YOU HATE ME!
SABER WINS!
D. CREEDAN
IT'S THE WILD MAN! I OUGHT TO KILL HIM! MAYBE HE FOLLOWED US...
YOU STUPID FOOLS, YOU MEAN YOU CLASHED WITH SABER? KILL HIM? HE'D HANDLE YOU LIKE HE HANDLED THAT LEOPARD. QUICK, FOLLOW ME...!

FETCH THE JUNGLE POLICE! NEVER MIND WHY—YOU'RE NOT SMART ENOUGH. TELL THEM I NEED THEM!
FLOUR

CREEDAN ENTERED HIS OWN STORE....
UMBALA, WRECK THE PLACE! NOW LISTEN TO THIS PLAN...

COME, CHEEKI, THERE IS NO SENSE NOW IN CAUTION. THE HUNTERS WILL KNOW WE ARE HERE. AH, SO THE CREEDAN ONE KEEPS A STORE!
STORE
D. CREEDA

IT IS SOMETIMES MORE CUNNING TO BE DIRECT. I'LL ASK THIS CREEDAN ABOUT THE MEN WHO TRIED TO KILL ANIMALS IN MY TERRITORY. MAYBE I'LL LEARN MORE THAN HE WISHES TO TELL...

SABER ENTERED...

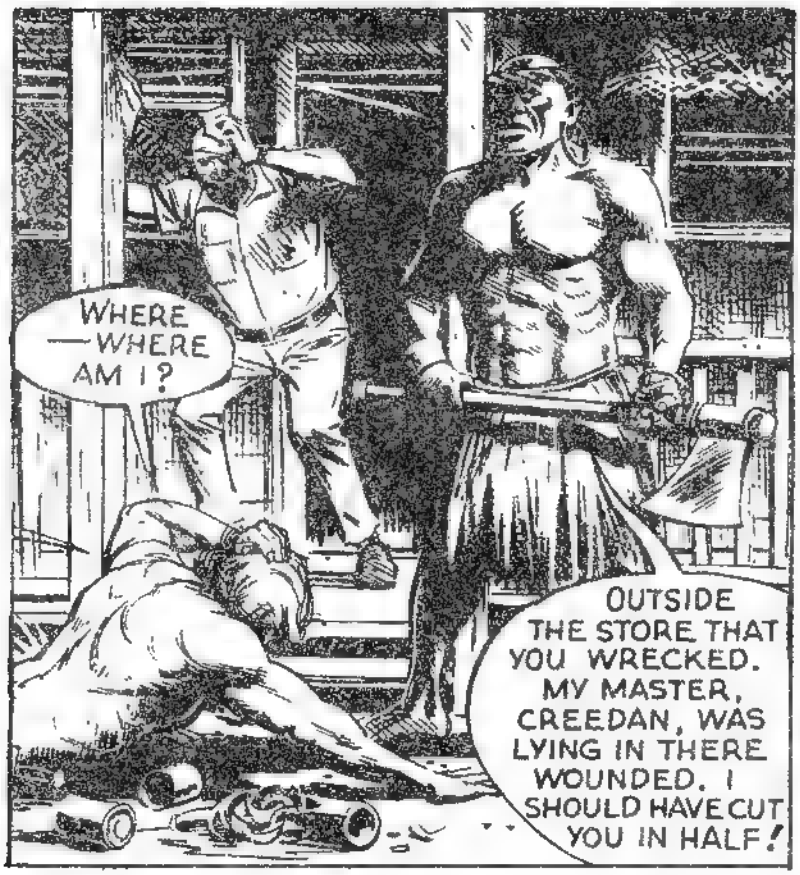
A BODY! BY THE TWO-TAILED DOG, WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHAT DEVILRY IS THIS?

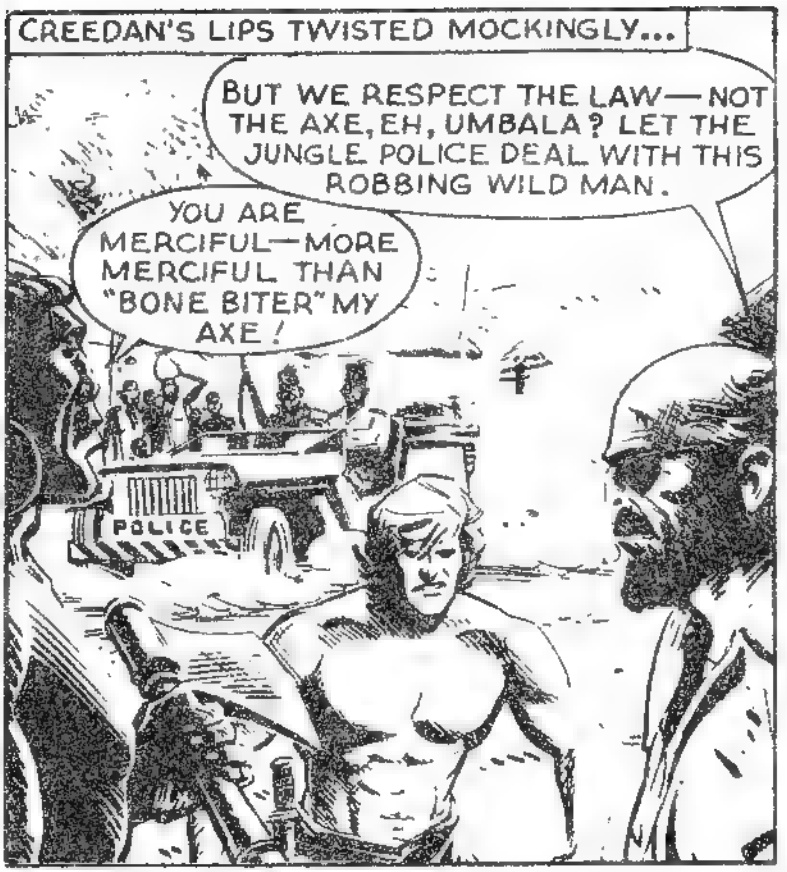
A SHADOW MOVED...

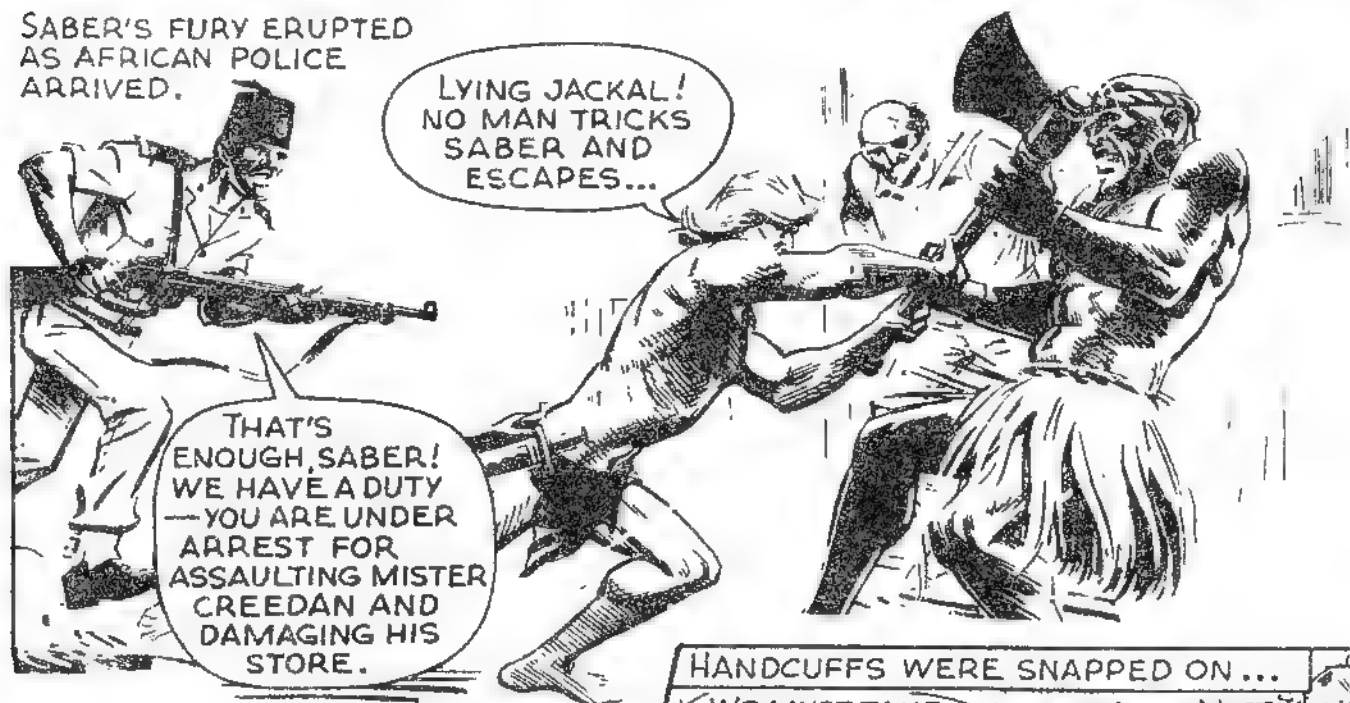
UGH!

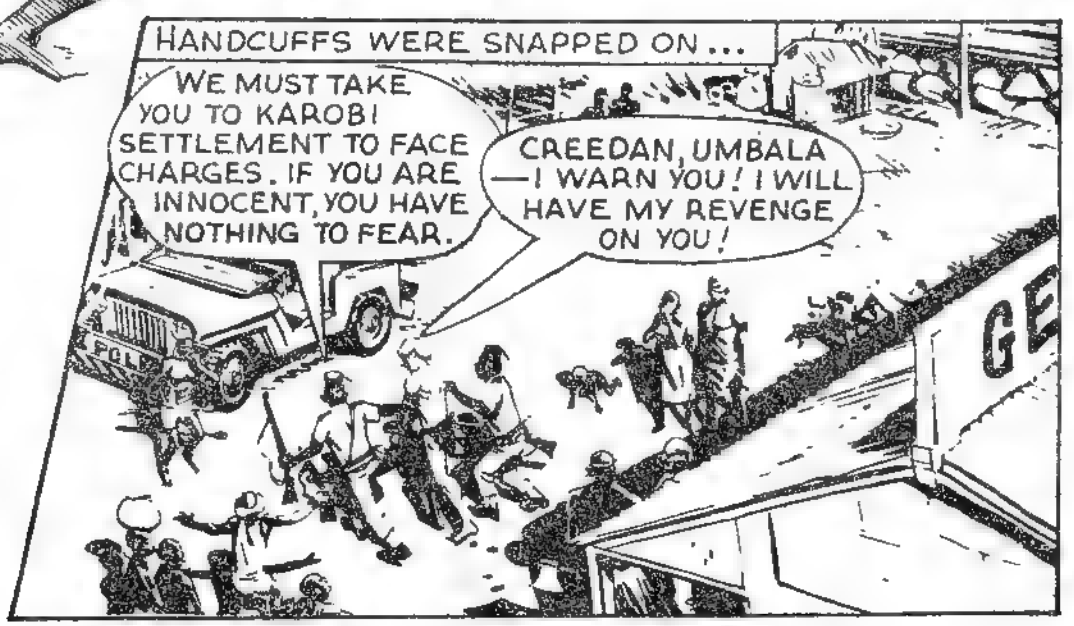
FIKI-UM!

... AND THE WORLD EXPLODED ABOUT SABER'S HEAD!


WHERE —WHERE AM I?
OUTSIDE THE STORE THAT YOU WRECKED. MY MASTER, CREEDAN, WAS LYING IN THERE WOUNDED. I SHOULD HAVE CUT YOU IN HALF!


CREEDAN'S LIPS TWISTED MOCKINGLY...
BUT WE RESPECT THE LAW— NOT THE AXE, EH, UMBALA? LET THE JUNGLE POLICE DEAL WITH THIS ROBBING WILD MAN.
YOU ARE MERCIFUL—MORE MERCIFUL THAN "BONE BITER" MY AXE!
POLICE

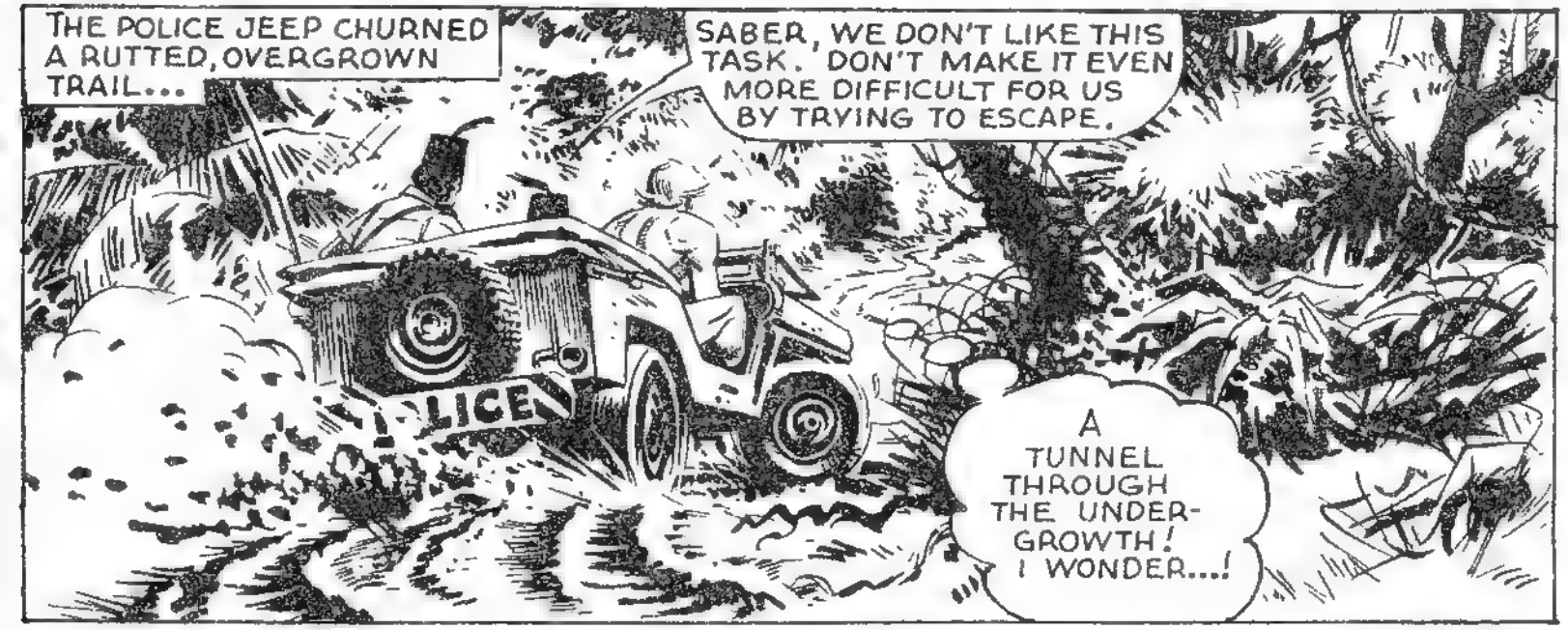

SABER'S FURY ERUPTED AS AFRICAN POLICE ARRIVED.
LYING JACKAL! NO MAN TRICKS SABER AND ESCAPES...
THAT'S ENOUGH, SABER! WE HAVE A DUTY —YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSAULTING MISTER CREEDAN AND DAMAGING HIS STORE.

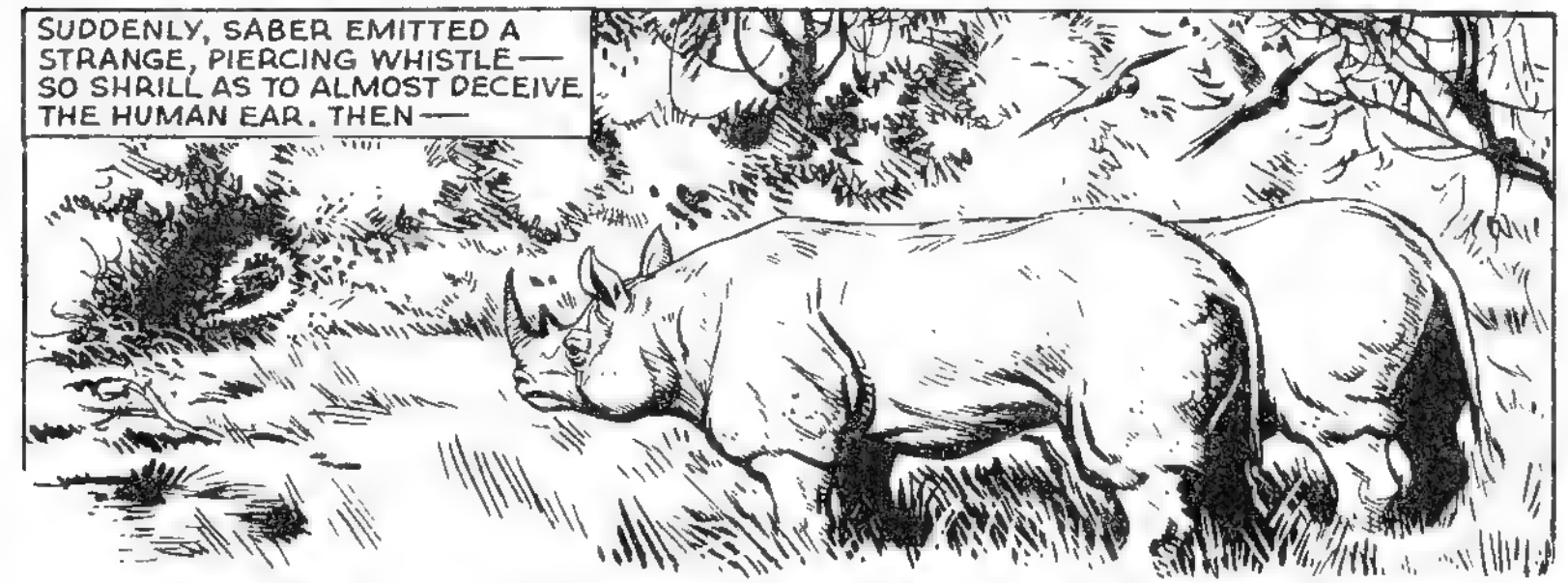

HANDCUFFS WERE SNAPPED ON...
WE MUST TAKE YOU TO KAROBI SETTLEMENT TO FACE CHARGES. IF YOU ARE INNOCENT, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
CREEDAN, UMBALA —I WARN YOU! I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE ON YOU!
POLICE

MEANWHILE...
YOU HAVE THE CARGO YOU NEED TO HELP YOU IN YOUR MISSION, PARDOE — NOW FIND THE LOST CITY OF TAAL! YOU'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE SABER IS FREE TO MEDDLE AGAIN!

THE LAUNCH AT LAST STARTED AWAY...
GO, UMBALA! I TRUST IN YOU AND "BONE BITER"
HEY, CREEDAN, WHAT'S THE IDEA SENDING YOUR STOOGE WITH US?

I CARRY THE TALISMAN! YOU NEED ME TO GUARD YOU AGAINST THE CRUEL JUNGLE. CREEDAN NEEDS ME IN CASE YOU PLAN TREACHERY.
FRIEND, BEFORE THIS JOB'S OVER, ONE OF US WILL BE DEAD —AND I'LL MAKE SURE IT AIN'T ME!


THE POLICE JEEP CHURNED A RUTTED, OVERGROWN TRAIL...
SABER, WE DON'T LIKE THIS TASK. DON'T MAKE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR US BY TRYING TO ESCAPE.
A TUNNEL THROUGH THE UNDER-GROWTH! I WONDER...!


SUDDENLY, SABER EMITTED A STRANGE, PIERCING WHISTLE— SO SHRILL AS TO ALMOST DECEIVE THE HUMAN EAR. THEN—

— HUGE FORMS CRASHED THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH...
OKALA, LOOK OUT! SWERVE!
SABER'S HUGE MUSCLES TIGHTENED.
NOW! WHILE MY JUNGLE FRIENDS AID ME!
CRACK
THE JEEP PLOUGHED INTO UNDERGROWTH...
OKALA, I AM SORRY TO DO THIS. BUT TRICKERY MUST MEET TRICKERY!
HANG ON!

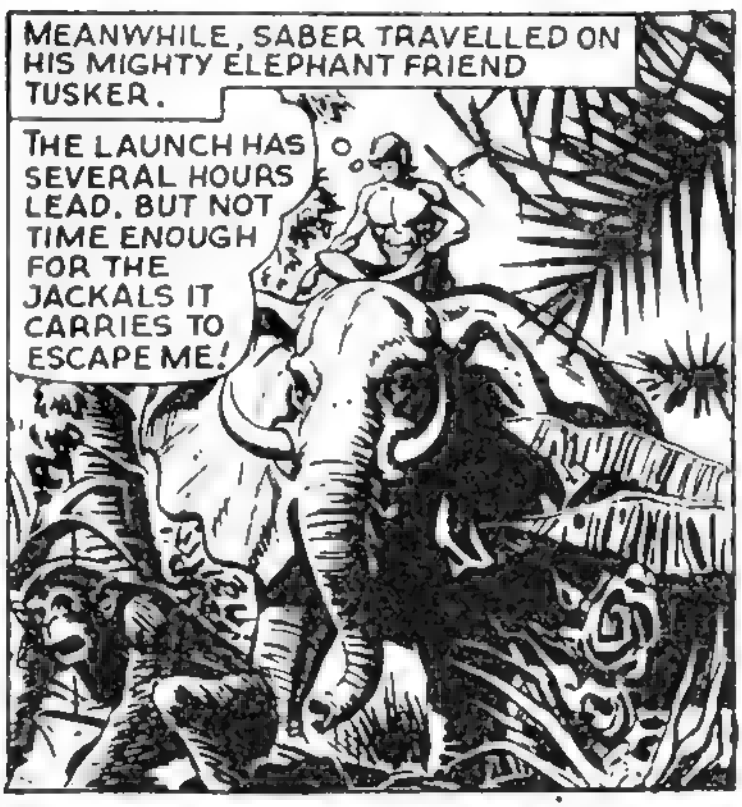
AWARREE-EEEEEEE!
NO — DON'T FIRE! I SWEAR HE IS NO CRIMINAL. GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE.
LATER, JUNGLE DRUMS THROBBED A MESSAGE...
BOUM BOUM
WHAT'S THAT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
SABER HAS ESCAPED AND HUNTS YOU. OTHER DRUMS BETRAY OUR POSITION TO HIM. UMBALA WILL LURE HIM TO HIS DEATH! DO NOT FEAR —
IT IS SABER! DRUMS TELL US HE ESCAPES FROM THE LAW!
HIS WRISTS BEAR THE BROKEN HANDCUFFS!

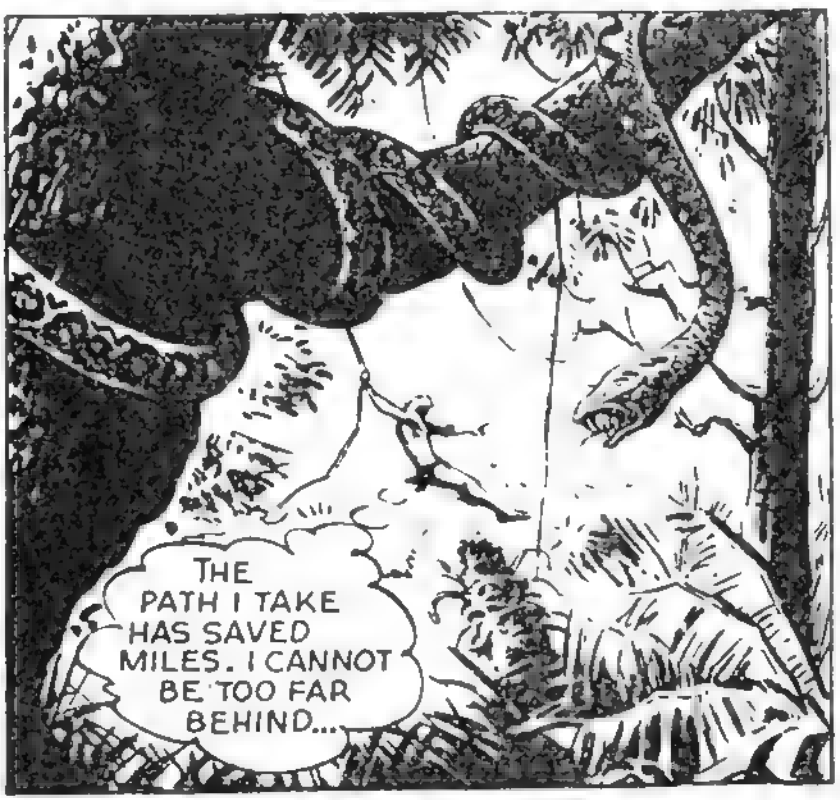
THE ARREST WAS TREACHERY! I ESCAPE BECAUSE EVIL MUST BE CRUSHED—AND TIME MAY BE SHORT.
I TRUST YOU, SABER! DRUMS ALSO TELL THAT A MOTOR-LAUNCH HAS SAILED UP THE MIGHTY RIVER!

WHILE THE HANDCUFFS WERE CUT FREE...
THE TRADER CREEDAN IS NOT ABOARD WITH THEM. THERE ARE THREE IN CREW—AND A SECRET CARGO.
I'LL FIND THEM—AND THE CARGO. THEIR JOURNEY, LINKED WITH THE EVIL TALISMAN, SPELLS DANGER FOR SOMEONE WHEN THEIR DESTINATION IS REACHED.

DRUMS! SABER MUST BE HUNTING US! WHAT NOW, UMBALA?
WE LET HIM *FIND US!* WE MOOR HERE, BEFORE THE RIVER DIVIDES...

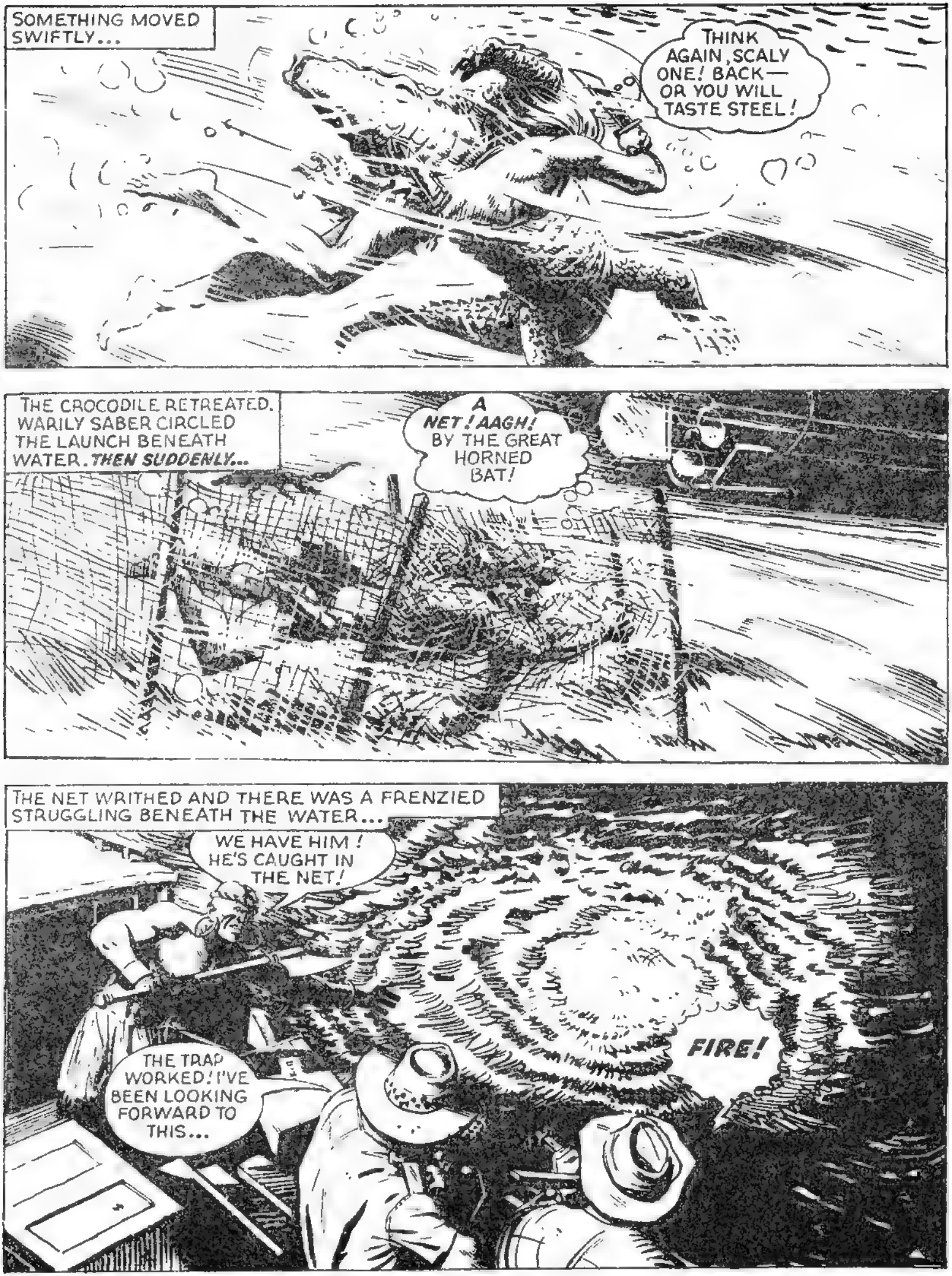
WE NEED SABER DEAD BEFORE WE FIND THE LOST CITY OF TAAL. THEN MAYBE WE'LL TAKE CARE OF UMBALA. CREEDAN WILL BE LAST ON THE LIST!
I HOPED YOU'D SAY THAT. WE'RE NOT THE FOOLS CREEDAN THINKS. WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ALL THE DIRTY WORK FOR A FEW HUNDRED POUNDS — WHILE HE SCOOPS A FORTUNE!


MEANWHILE, SABER TRAVELLED ON HIS MIGHTY ELEPHANT FRIEND TUSKER.
THE LAUNCH HAS SEVERAL HOURS LEAD. BUT NOT TIME ENOUGH FOR THE JACKALS IT CARRIES TO ESCAPE ME!

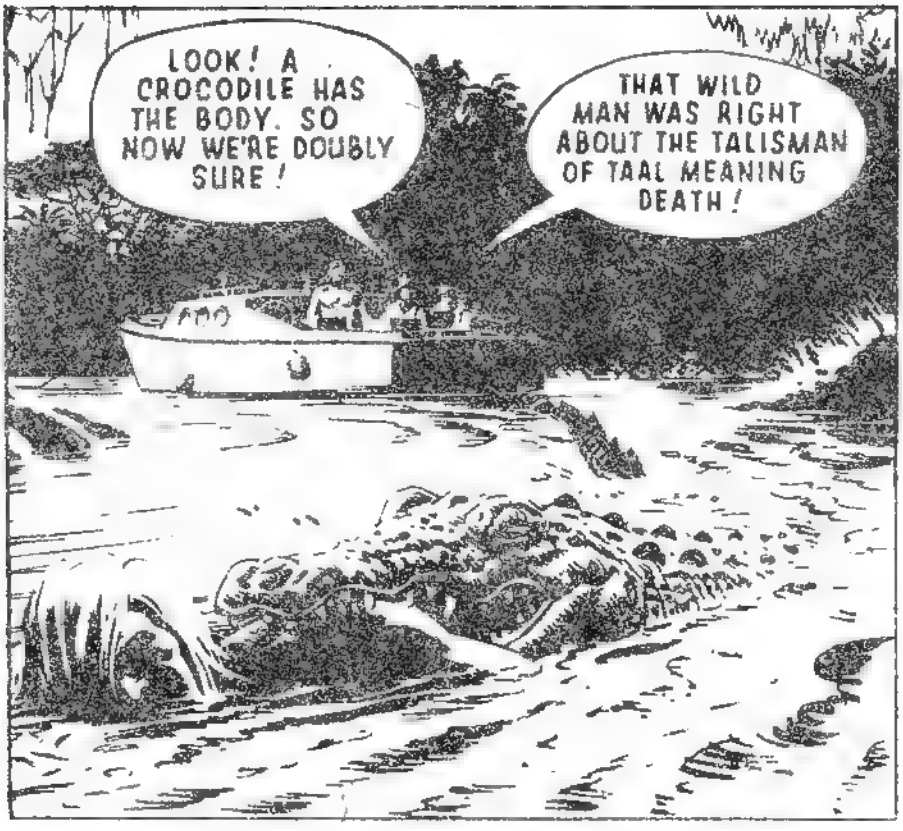

THE PATH I TAKE HAS SAVED MILES. I CANNOT BE TOO FAR BEHIND...

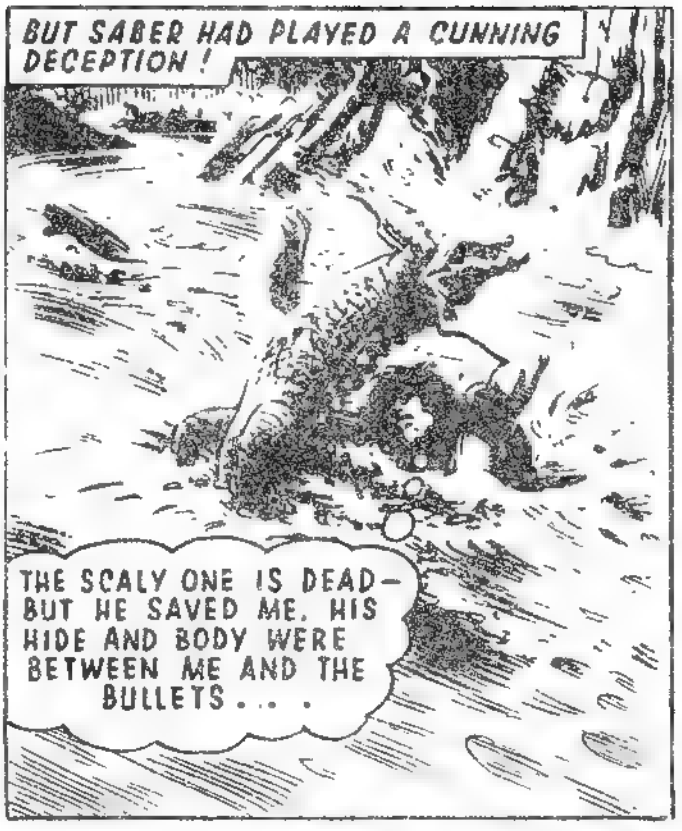
THE LAUNCH IS MOORED —WITH NO GUARDS. I SENSE DANGER...

THE CARGO ABOARD MAY TELL ME WHAT THE EVIL ONES PLAN. I MUST EXAMINE IT. I'LL FIND A WAY!


SOMETHING MOVED SWIFTLY...
THINK AGAIN, SCALY ONE! BACK— OR YOU WILL TASTE STEEL!
THE CROCODILE RETREATED. WARILY SABER CIRCLED THE LAUNCH BENEATH WATER. THEN SUDDENLY...
A NET! AAGH! BY THE GREAT HORNED BAT!
THE NET WRITHED AND THERE WAS A FRENZIED STRUGGLING BENEATH THE WATER...
WE HAVE HIM! HE'S CAUGHT IN THE NET!
THE TRAP WORKED! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...
FIRE!

HE HASN'T A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
IT'S ALL YOURS, WILD MAN! YOU PUSHED YOUR LUCK TANGLING WITH US.
SABER'S DEAD FOR SURE! HE'LL SINK WITH THE LEAD WE'VE POURED INTO HIM!
PARDOE, WE GOT HIM!
STOP FIRING! EVEN SABER CAN'T BE DEADER THAN DEAD. NO NEED TO WASTE AMMO'...


LOOK! A CROCODILE HAS THE BODY. SO NOW WE'RE DOUBLY SURE!
THAT WILD MAN WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE TALISMAN OF TAAL MEANING DEATH!


BUT SABER HAD PLAYED A CUNNING DECEPTION!
THE SCALY ONE IS DEAD— BUT HE SAVED ME. HIS HIDE AND BODY WERE BETWEEN ME AND THE BULLETS....

...THE CROCODILE HAD ATTACKED AT THE MOMENT SABER ENTERED THE NET!
IN THOSE MOMENTS SABER HAD ACTED LIKE LIGHTNING...
HE MISSED! THE KILLER ENTERS THE TRAP MEANT FOR ME...
OTHER KILLERS WILL BE READY TO STRIKE. THOUGH I CANNOT CLOSE THEIR JAWS, I'LL ROB THEM OF THEIR PREY...

IT WAS THE CROCODILE THE BULLETS HAD CLAIMED . . .
BUT NOW THE JUNGLE KING WAS IN FRESH PERIL . . .
MAY THE GODS GIVE ME STRENGTH! NO MAN CAN DESCEND THE RAPIDS AND LIVE. I AM POWERLESS IN THE GRIP OF THE RIVER CURRENT!
THOUGH SABER SWAM STRONGLY, THERE WAS NO AVOIDING THE TERRIBLE DESCENT. THEN . . .
THAT PYTHON! IT IS MY ONE CHANCE! IF MY SKILL FAILS ME — DEATH!

SABER'S POWER OVER WILDLIFE WAS UNCANNY. HE GAVE A STRANGE THROBBING CALL . . .
AWARREEEEEEEE! AAATEEEH!
THE PYTHON UNCOILS...!
FRIEND, USE YOUR STRENGTH TO PULL ME TO SAFETY!
I LIVE! AGAIN THE EVIL TALISMAN OF TAAL HAS BEEN ROBBED OF SACRIFICE... MY ENEMIES THINK ME DEAD. THEY SHALL SOON LEARN DIFFERENTLY!

A WEEK PASSED...
THREE MORE DAYS WILL SEE US INTO OKASU TERRITORY. THAT'S WHERE WE UNLOAD THE CARGO.
IT'S THE FIRST STAGE IN OUR SEARCH FOR THE LOST CITY OF TAAL
THE JACKALS HAVE GONE BELOW! NOW TO EXAMINE THEIR CARGO! MY 'DEATH' WILL HAVE SWOLLEN THEIR CONFIDENCE...

ALL IS WELL! LET US SEE WHAT CARGO THESE HUMAN JACKALS ARE CARRYING. IT LINKS WITH THE ACCURSED TALISMAN OF TAAL...

BY THE STEEL FANG — ***GUNS!*** ENOUGH FOR A MASSACRE! THEY CAN ONLY BE MEANT FOR THE DREADED ALKINI TRIBE. THE ALKINIS THINK OF NOTHING BUT WAR!

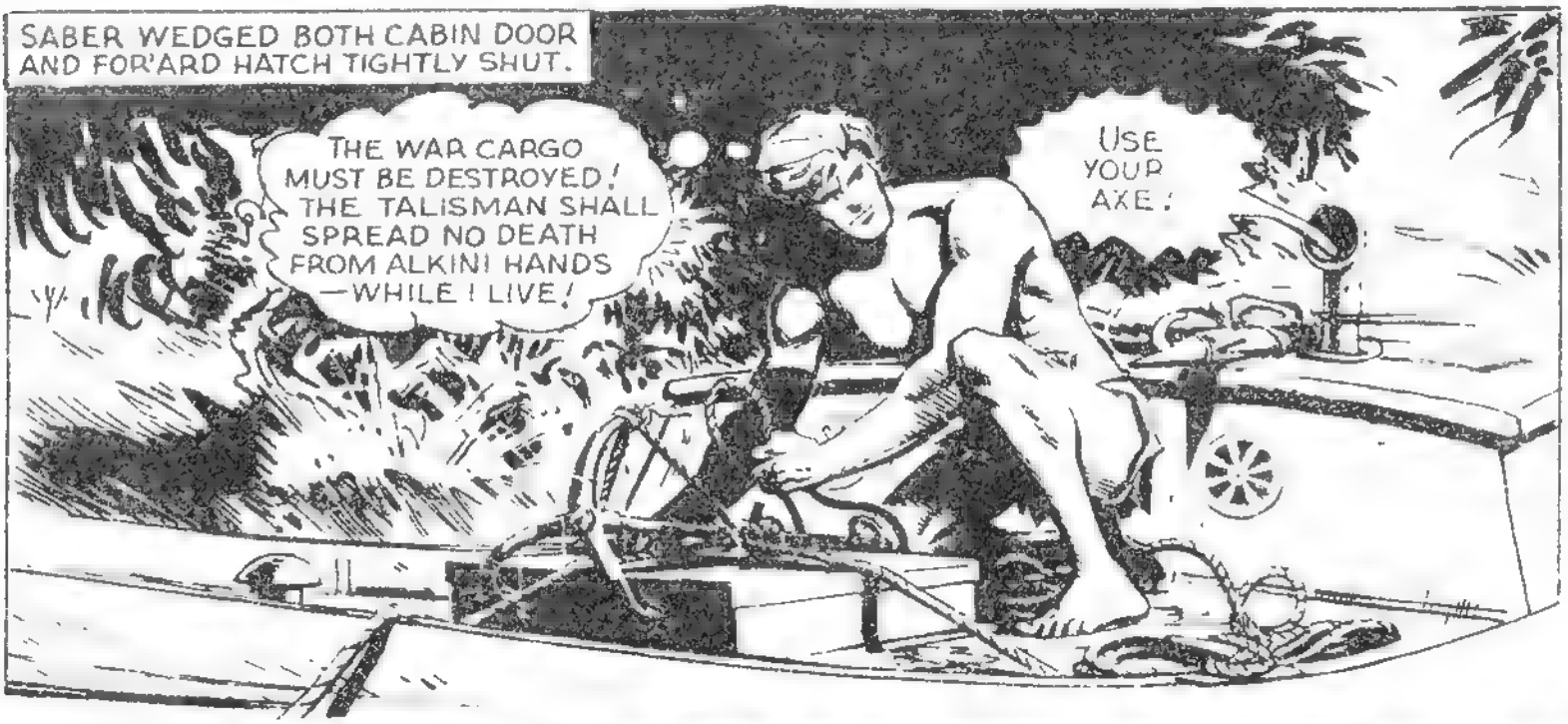
ZEKE HAD HEARD SOUNDS...

IT'S SABER! THE WILD MAN'S STILL ALIVE!... ***PARDOE, UMBALA, COME QUICKLY!***

NO JUNGLE CAT WAS FASTER THAN SABER...
TOO MUCH ALIVE, JACKAL! I AM NOT LIKE THE SIMPLE BEASTS YOU HAVE SLAUGHTERED...

BELOW DECK...
MY AXE, BONE-BITER, THRIVES ON SUCH TROUBLE!
COME ON! ZEKE'S IN TROUBLE — THE FOOL!

A HEAVY FORM CRASHED UPON THEM...
TAKE THE OTHER ONE OF YOUR PACK!
AUUGH!

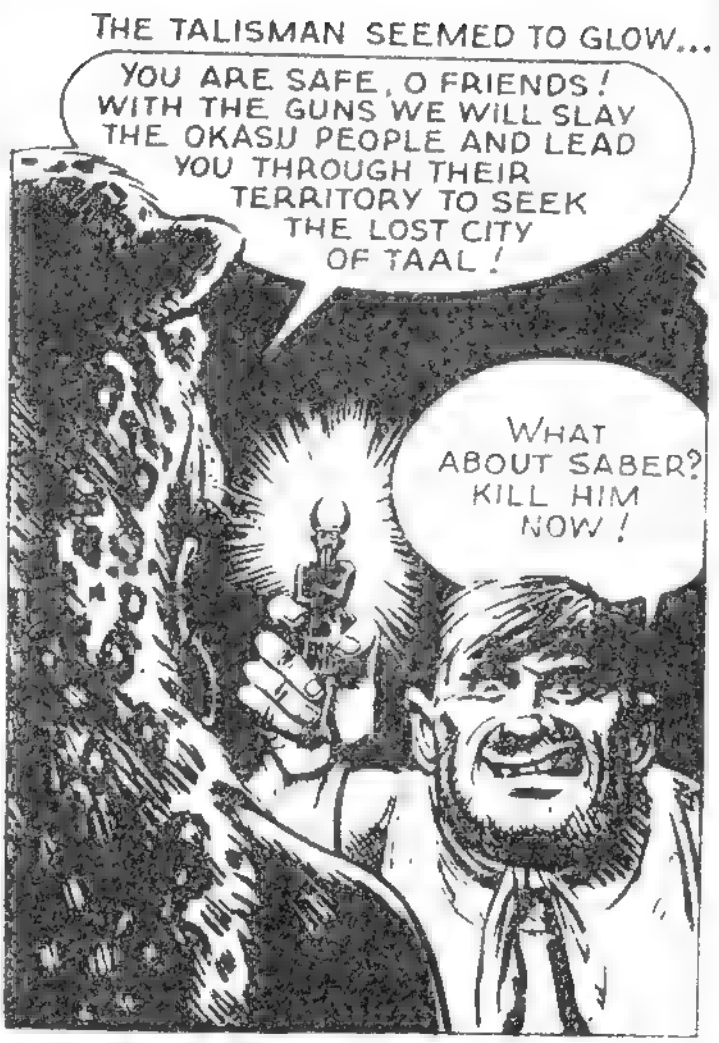

SABER WEDGED BOTH CABIN DOOR AND FOR'ARD HATCH TIGHTLY SHUT.
THE WAR CARGO MUST BE DESTROYED! THE TALISMAN SHALL SPREAD NO DEATH FROM ALKINI HANDS —WHILE I LIVE!
USE YOUR AXE!

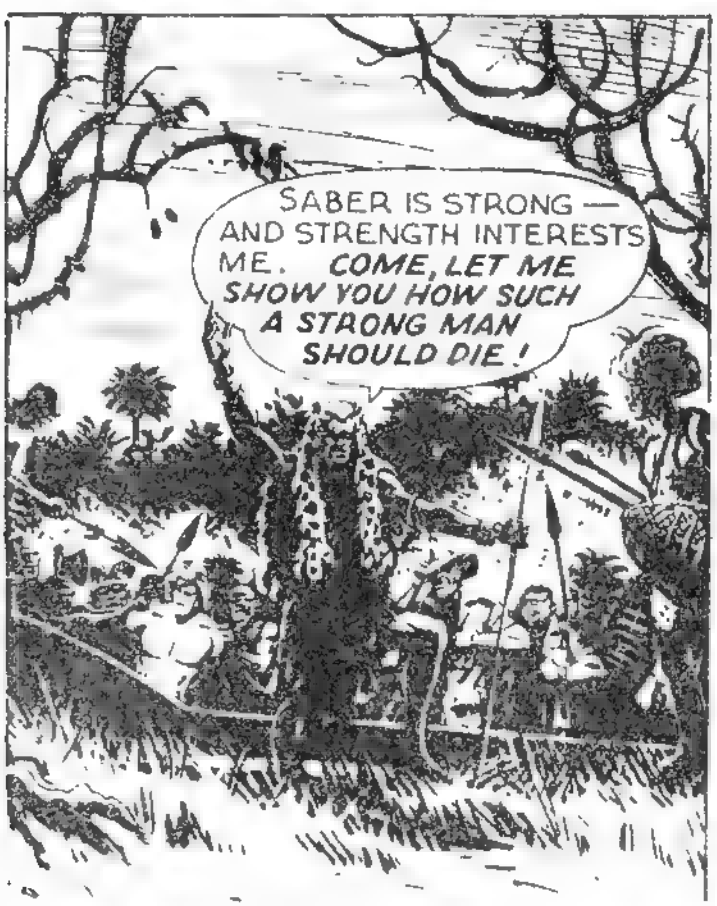
AS THE LAUNCH DRIFTED FREE...
PARLOE, ONE CASE GOES OVERBOARD! I'LL SINK THE LAUNCH RATHER THAN LET YOU SET THE ALKINI ON THE WAR-TRAIL!

EAGLE P.L.

SILENT FORMS GLIDED...
ALKINI WARRIORS! THEY HAVE COME TO ESCORT THE LAUNCH!
YAAAA-AARK!
MY CLAWS ARE NOT BLUNTED YET, O MEN OF THE ALKINI! IF I DIE FIGHTING—I'LL NOT BE ALONE!
HE FIGHTS LIKE A CORNERED LION!
SALUTE SUCH AN ENEMY. HE IS STRONG AS AN OX!
OGH!

WHEN SABER RECOVERED...
WHITE MEN, WE COME TO ESCORT YOU TO ALKINI TERRITORY. YOU HAVE THE GUNS! HAVE YOU ALSO THE TALISMAN OF TAAL?
SHOW THEM IT, ZEKE! IT'S OUR PASSPORT!


THE TALISMAN SEEMED TO GLOW...
YOU ARE SAFE, O FRIENDS! WITH THE GUNS WE WILL SLAY THE OKASU PEOPLE AND LEAD YOU THROUGH THEIR TERRITORY TO SEEK THE LOST CITY OF TAAL!
WHAT ABOUT SABER? KILL HIM NOW!


SABER IS STRONG — AND STRENGTH INTERESTS ME. COME, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW SUCH A STRONG MAN SHOULD DIE!

THIS KRAAL ONCE HOUSED MY ENEMIES. THEY ARE NOW DEAD. ONLY ONE SPECIAL THING LIVES HERE NOW.
NOW I'M INTERESTED! YOU SAY THE RIGHT THINGS.

MOVE THE ROCKS! CLEAR THE 'ROOF' FROM THE PIT TRAP.
WHAT'S DOWN THERE —A LION?
A GORILLA! A MONSTER!
THREE MEN WERE KILLED IN ITS CAPTURE. IT LIVED —BECAUSE I ADMIRE COURAGE AND STRENGTH.
SABER'S KNIFE HAD BEEN SNATCHED FROM ITS SHEATH.
SABER, MEET YOUR OPPONENT! MASU—THE MAN-TAMER AWAITS YOU. YOU WILL FIGHT HIM WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!

A TERRIFYING SHAPE SPRANG...
NO MAN ON EARTH CAN DEFEAT A GORILLA! THOSE ARMS—THOSE FANGS ... YET IF I DIE NOW, THE OKASU PEOPLE ARE DOOMED TO BE MASSACRED BY THE ARMED ALKINIS.
EVERY MOVE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING...
THEN SABER SPOKE IN A QUEER, CHATTERING TONGUE...

SUDDENLY...
I— AAAAAH!
HE'S LASTED WELL—NOW WE'RE NEARING THE END.
THE MONSTER HAS HIM! PHEW, WHAT TERRIFIC STRENGTH!
WHAT FOLLOWED WAS UNCANNY—
NOW, MASU— THROW! YOUR POWER AND MINE TOGETHER!
NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT ... LOOK OUT!
SABER SNATCHED UP HIS KNIFE ...
QUICK—KILL HIM! THE BRUTE HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE...
DON'T FIRE, WHITE MEN— OR YOU DIE! HE HAS OUR CHIEF!

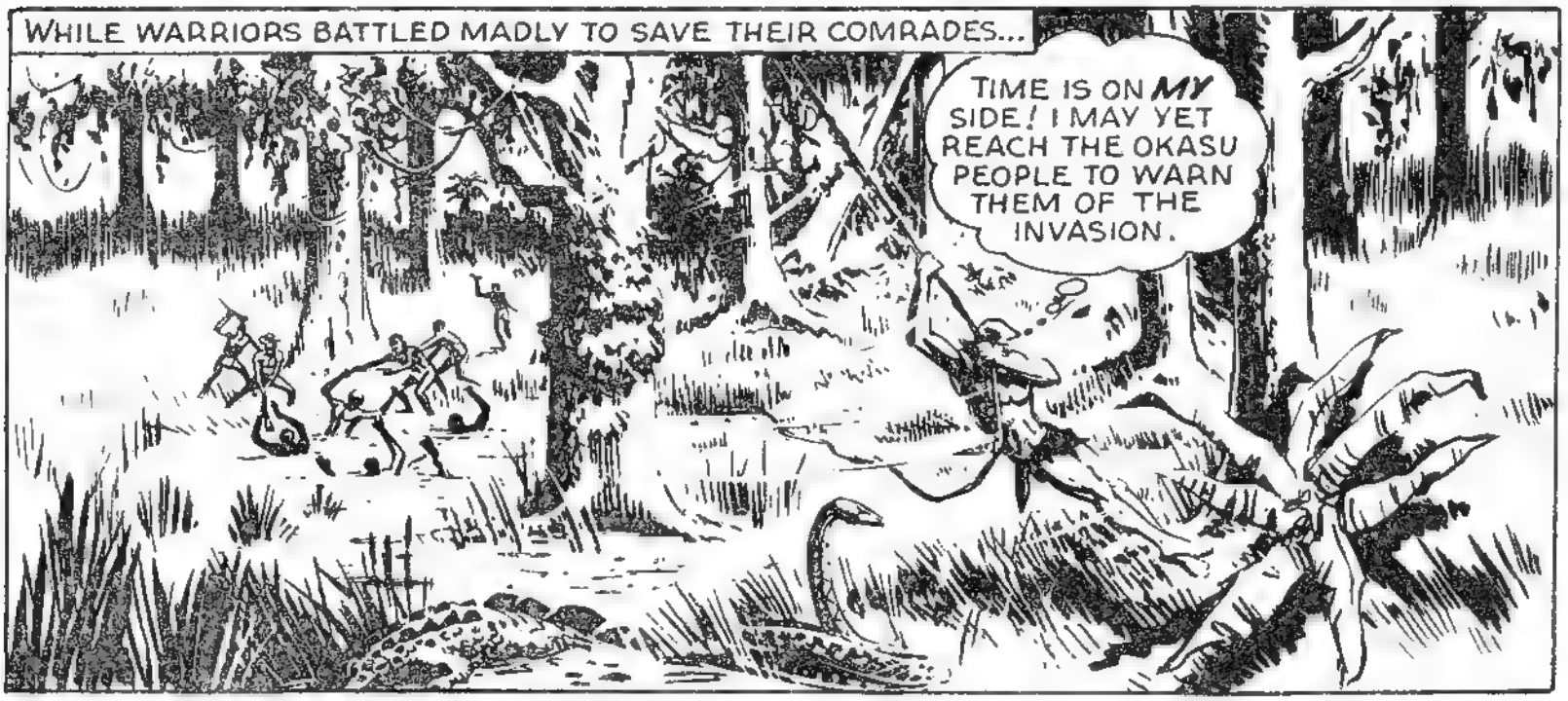
NO ONE MOVE — OR MY STEEL FANG SLAYS YOUR CHIEF. MASU PROVED A FRIEND. HE KNOWS WHO HIS REAL ENEMIES ARE !
WHY, YOU — YOU !

THE GORILLA GAVE SABER HIS CHANCE...

SABER GAINED THE TREE-TOPS...
I MUST WARN THE OKASU TRIBE THAT GUNS ARE BEING SUPPLIED TO THE ALKINI — THAT THERE WILL BE INVASION TO REACH THE LOST CITY OF TAAL !

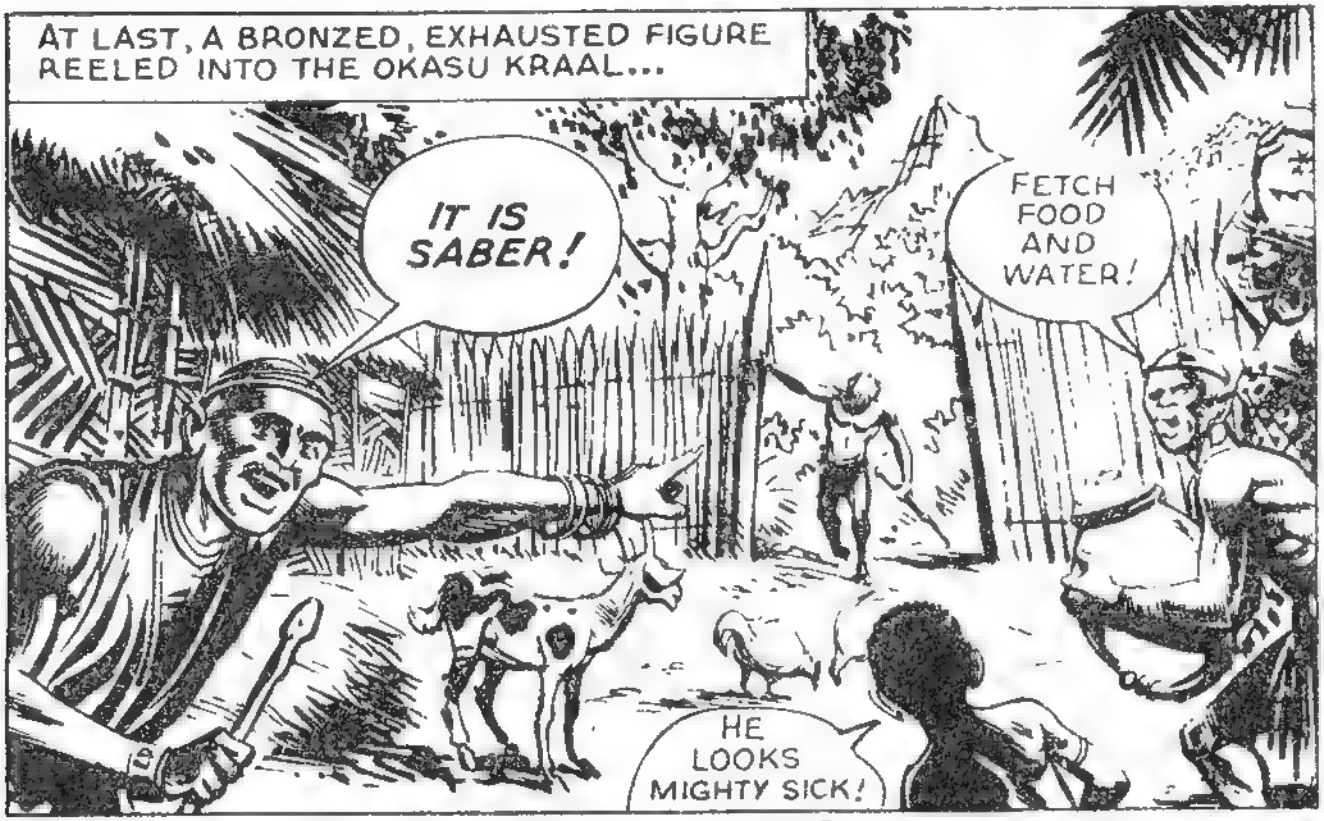
HUNT HIM — AND KILL! MAKE NO MISTAKE! HE HAS THE COURAGE OF A LION — AND IS MORE DANGEROUS.
QUICK, BACK TO THE LAUNCH!
THE ESCORTED LAUNCH SET OUT FOR ALKINI COUNTRY...
GET GOING! WE HAVE TO DELIVER THE GUNS. THE ALKINI NEED THEM TO TAKE US TO THE LOST CITY.
YEAH, BEFORE SABER WARNS THE OKASU. TO THEM THE LOST CITY IS SACRED. THEY WILL FIGHT TO STOP US REACHING IT.
MEANWHILE, THE GRIM HUNT CONTINUED...
KILL! KILL!
...MUST WARN OKASU! THERE WILL BE MASSACRE IF THEY ARE TAKEN BY SURPRISE...
INTENT ON AVOIDING THE SPEARS, SABER DID NOT NOTICE THE GROUND TILL...
AAAH! A SWAMP!
THE LIANA — I MUST PULL MYSELF UP. AAH! THE SWAMP CLUTCHES ME LIKE A GIANT HAND!
EVERY SINEW STRAINED TO NEAR-BREAKING POINT...
I HAVE ONLY SECONDS BEFORE THE ALKINI HUNTERS ARRIVE... MAY THE LUCK OF THE HUNTED BE WITH ME!

THE TREACHEROUS SWAMP GAVE NO WARNING...
AAAAAAGH!
I REACHED SAFETY JUST IN TIME! NOW THE SWAMP CLOSES IN! THE JUNGLE CLAIMS THE EVIL ALKINI.


WHILE WARRIORS BATTLED MADLY TO SAVE THEIR COMRADES...
TIME IS ON MY SIDE! I MAY YET REACH THE OKASU PEOPLE TO WARN THEM OF THE INVASION.

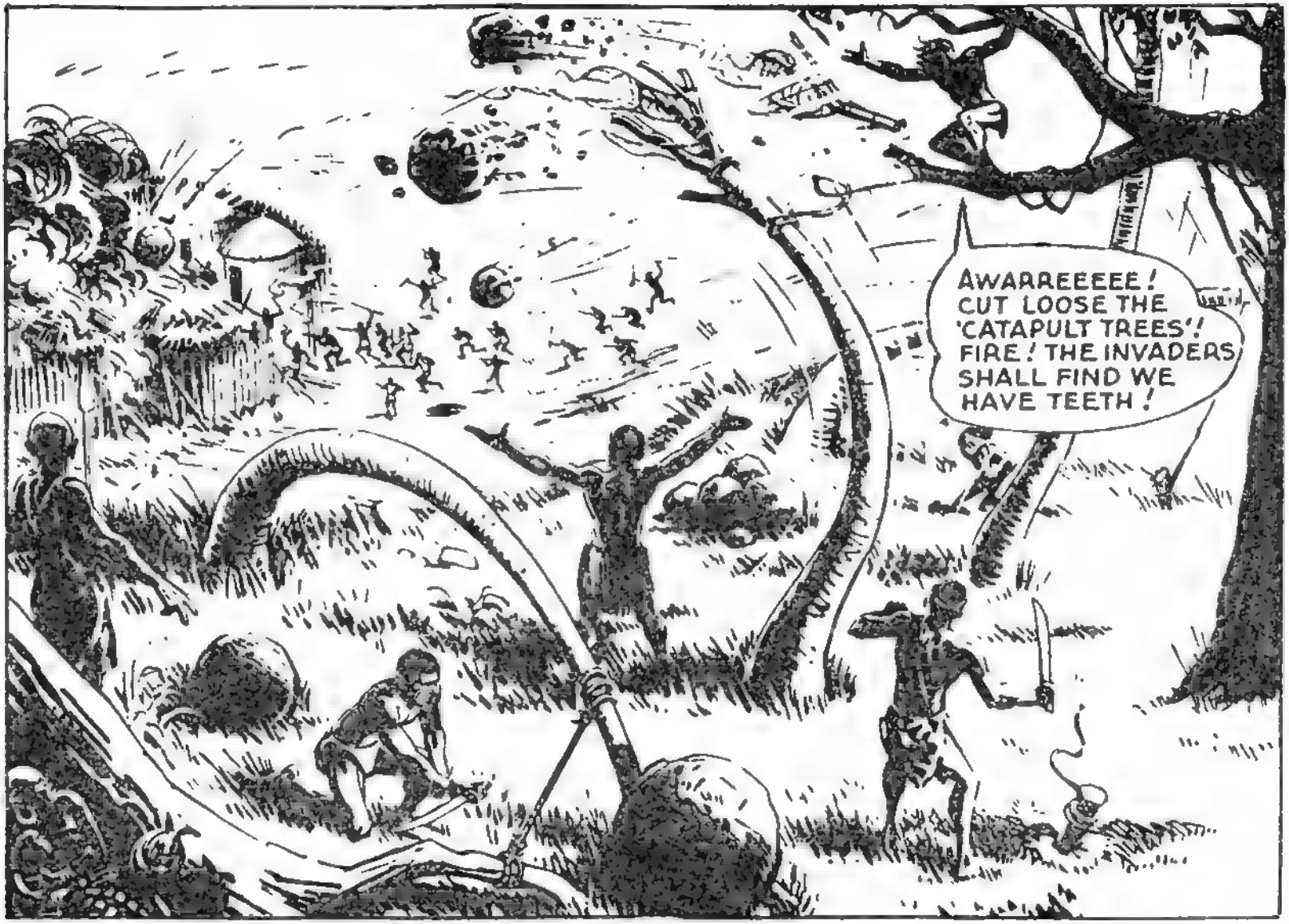
SABER USED EVERY MEANS IN HIS POWER...

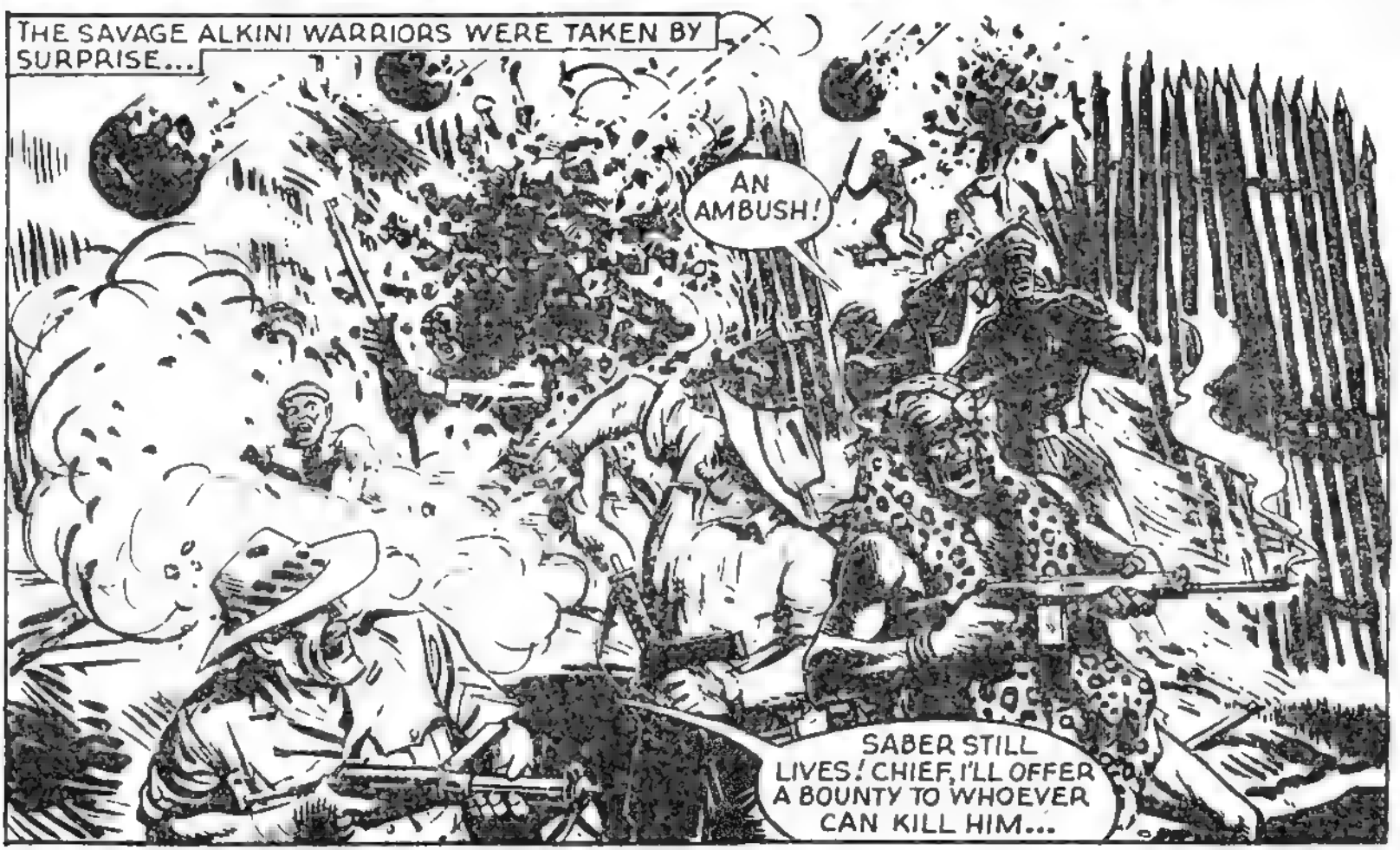
NO OBSTACLE HALTED HIM...
I DARE NOT FAIL! ONCE ACROSS THE RAVINE, I REACH OKASU TERRITORY...
NUMBED AND EXHAUSTED, HE CARRIED ON — TRAVELLING FOR HOUR AFTER HOUR.


AT LAST, A BRONZED, EXHAUSTED FIGURE REELED INTO THE OKASU KRAAL...
IT IS SABER!
FETCH FOOD AND WATER!
HE LOOKS MIGHTY SICK!

MEN, ARM— THE ALKINI TO INVADE YOU. THREE ENEMIES—SEEK YOUR LOST CITY OF TAAL. THEY HAVE MANY GUNS!
SLOWLY! YOU ARE A BRAVE MAN — OUR FRIEND.
YOU HAVE LITTLE TIME... PREPARE!
HOW, SABER? WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THE ALKINI WITH RIFLES. YET THE LOST CITY IS SACRED. GREAT EVIL WILL COME IF ENEMIES FIND IT.
MEANWHILE, THE GUNS HAD BEEN SAFELY DELIVERED...
CHIEF, WE'VE KEPT OUR BARGAIN BY ARMING YOU. AND SABER IS DEAD. NOW TAKE US TO THE LOST CITY OF TAAL.
THE BARGAIN IS SEALED. TONIGHT WE WIPE OUT THE OKASU KRAALS.

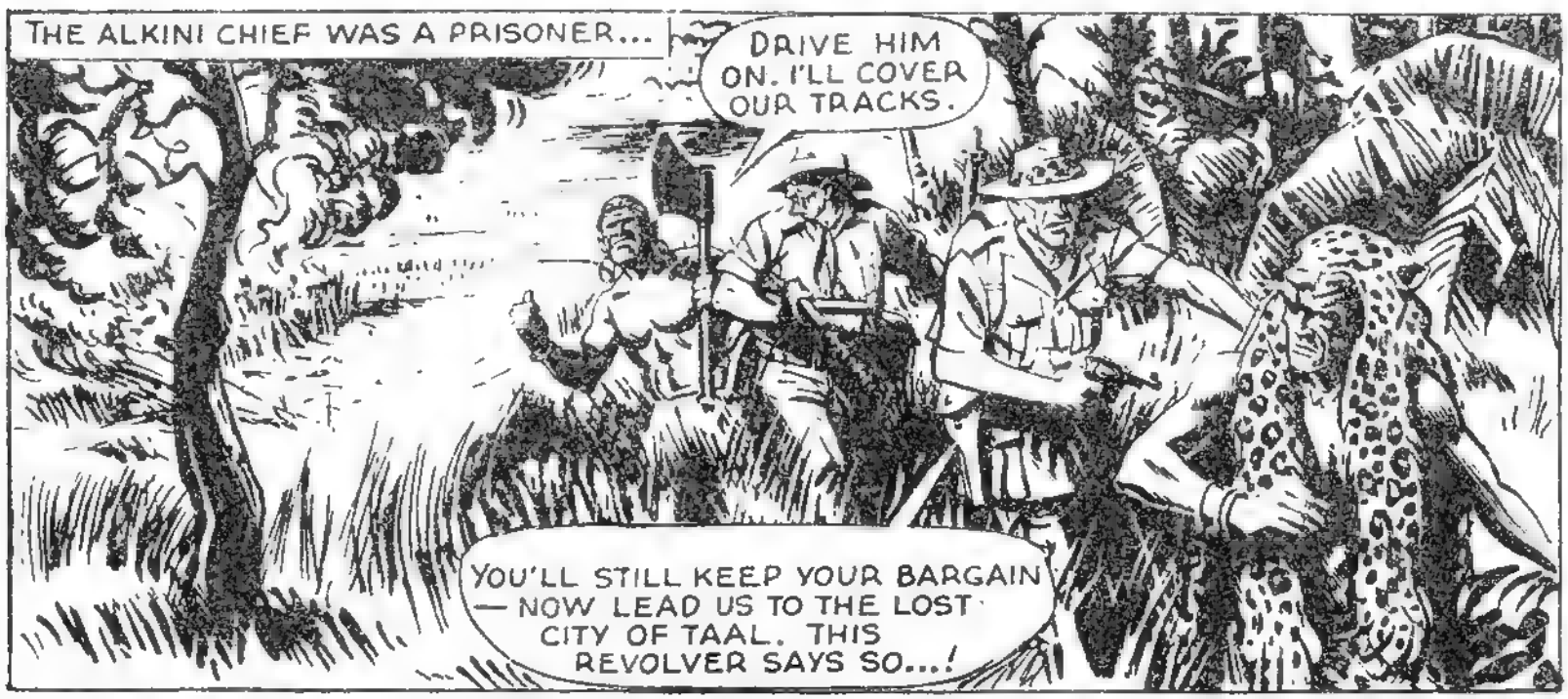
THE ALKINI IMPI MOVED SWIFTLY..
YOU'RE QUIET, UMBALA. WHAT'S WORRYING YOU? AFRAID THERE'LL BE NO WORK FOR BONE-BITER, YOUR AXE?
NEVER MOCK ME— OR YOU MIGHT TASTE BONE-BITER. YOU SPEAK OF SABER'S DEATH, BUT YOU CANNOT BE SURE.
THERE WAS NO SOUND FROM THE OKASU VILLAGE. THEN—
STRIKE! DEATH TO THE OKASU WHILE THEY SLEEP!
UMBALA WAS STILL UNEASY. THEN SUDDENLY—
SOMETHING'S WRONG—IT'S LIKE A VILLAGE OF SILENCE! LOOK! PARDOE, I WARNED YOU...
NO.... AAAAH!

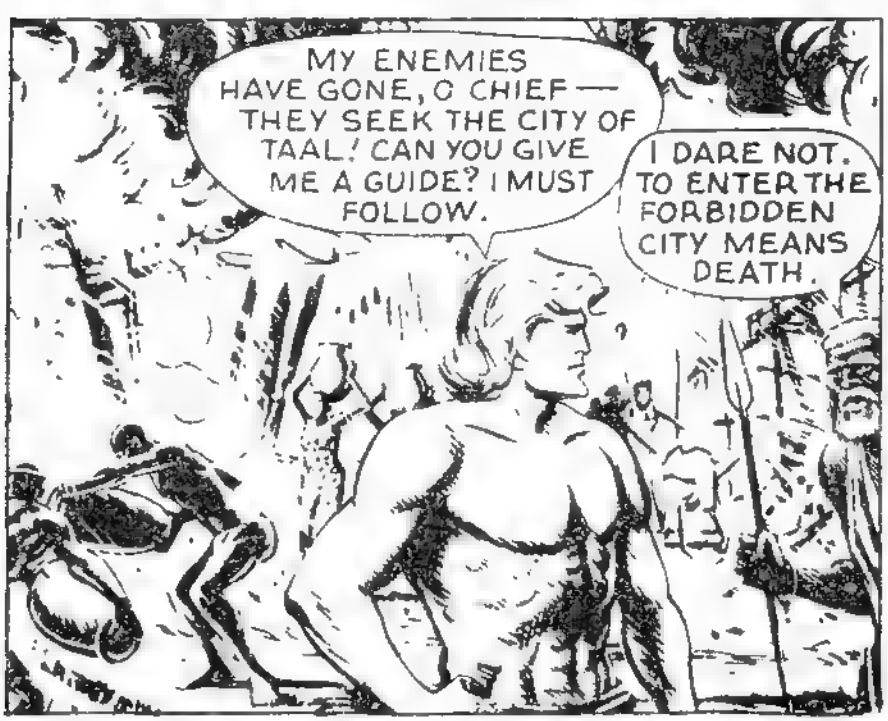

AWARREEEEE! CUT LOOSE THE 'CATAPULT TREES'! FIRE! THE INVADERS SHALL FIND WE HAVE TEETH!

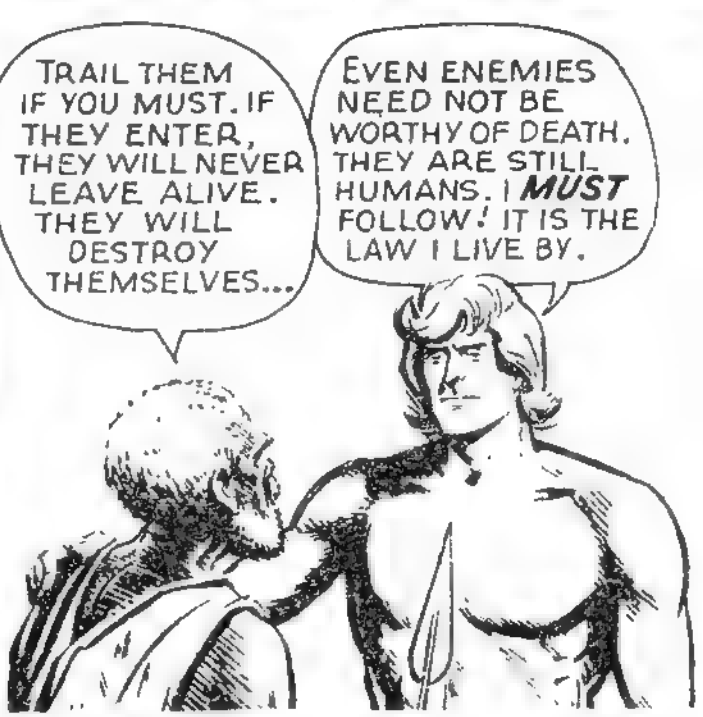

THE SAVAGE ALKINI WARRIORS WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE...
AN AMBUSH!
SABER STILL LIVES! CHIEF, I'LL OFFER A BOUNTY TO WHOEVER CAN KILL HIM...

FROM THE BURNING HUTS SUDDENLY SWARMED — HORNETS!
WE COLLECTED THE NESTS FOR YOUR BENEFIT, O FOOLS, THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU SET FIRE TO HUTS!
EEAAAAH!
THE AGONISED INVASION FORCE BROKE...
RETREAT!
NOW ATTACK! STRIKE—GIVE THEM NO CHANCE TO REFORM!

ENOUGH! DEFEAT HAS ALREADY FILLED THEIR STOMACHS. BUT THEIR CHIEF IS MISSING...!
SO ARE YOUR THREE OTHER ENEMIES!


THE ALKINI CHIEF WAS A PRISONER...
DRIVE HIM ON. I'LL COVER OUR TRACKS.
YOU'LL STILL KEEP YOUR BARGAIN — NOW LEAD US TO THE LOST CITY OF TAAL. THIS REVOLVER SAYS SO...!


MY ENEMIES HAVE GONE, O CHIEF — THEY SEEK THE CITY OF TAAL! CAN YOU GIVE ME A GUIDE? I MUST FOLLOW.
I DARE NOT. TO ENTER THE FORBIDDEN CITY MEANS DEATH.


TRAIL THEM IF YOU MUST. IF THEY ENTER, THEY WILL NEVER LEAVE ALIVE. THEY WILL DESTROY THEMSELVES...
EVEN ENEMIES NEED NOT BE WORTHY OF DEATH. THEY ARE STILL HUMANS. I MUST FOLLOW! IT IS THE LAW I LIVE BY.

THIS PLACE IS EVIL!
KEEP GOING! UMBALA, YOU BRING UP THE REAR.

MEANWHILE...
THERE'S THE HILL OF THE BEAST! BEHIND IT LIES THE LOST CITY...I GO NO FARTHER!
I'LL DECIDE WHEN YOU FALL OUT. GET MOVING!

SOMEONE WATCHED...
ONLY AN ENORMOUS GAIN COULD MAKE PARDOE AND ZEKE RUN SUCH RISKS. ONE SLIP FROM THAT BRIDGE WOULD BE THE LAST...

SABER WAITED A LONG TIME. THEN...
I FEEL UNEASY. OUT HERE A MAN IS TOO VISIBLE. I'M ALREADY PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN...

AAAAAH!
I SWORE YOU WOULD DIE BY BONE-BITER MY AXE! SUCH DEATH HONOURS YOU, SABER!

SABER HURTLED DOWN TOWARDS THE JAGGED ROCKS...
TO HIT THE CLIFF COULD SMASH ME TO PIECES. I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GAMBLE MY LIFE.

NO MAN CAN SURVIVE SUCH A DIVE. I SALUTE A TRUE WARRIOR!

SABER TWISTED IN MID-AIR, HIS ANIMAL-SHARP INSTINCTS HAD TAKEN CONTROL.
I—I MAY YET STAND A CHANCE...

UMBALA PADDED AFTER HIS COMPANIONS AND THE CAPTIVE ALKINI CHIEF, WHO WAS UNWILLINGLY LEADING THE GROUP TO THE LOST CITY OF TAAL.
SABER IS DEAD! MY AXE BLADE HAS SEEN NO BRAVER ENEMY.

BRUISED AND BLEEDING — ALMOST UNCONSCIOUS—SABER WAS SWEPT ALONG BY THE CURRENT.
I — I'M BENEATH GROUND. SOME KIND OF TUNNEL...

SLOWLY HIS STRENGTH RETURNED...
DAYLIGHT AHEAD! PERHAPS I CAN CLIMB...

ONE SLIP — AND I'LL END UP AS UMBALA WANTED...

THE JOURNEY TO THE LOST CITY CONTINUED...
YOU ENTER THE MOUTH TO REACH THE LOST CITY. NOW I TURN BACK...
KEEP LEADING THE WAY! YOU JUMP FIRST, UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO EAT BULLETS.

THE CHIEF JUMPED...
EEEEEEEK! THE STONE TIPS—!
I FANCIED THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
UMBALA, CUT A TREE TO SPAN THE GAP. I ALWAYS LEARN BY OTHERS' MISTAKES!
HE'D OUTLIVED HIS USE ANYWAY.
WHEN WE'VE FOUND WHAT WE CAME FOR IN TAAL, WE'LL GET RID OF UMBALA. I PREFER TO SHARE TWO WAYS...
THEY SAY THE LOST CITY MEANS DEATH. IT'LL BE TRUE— FOR HIM!

SOMETHING GLEAMED AHEAD...
A STATUE—A REPLICA OF THE EVIL TALISMAN OF TAAL! LIGHT REFLECTS... HAVE I FOUND WHAT MY ENEMIES SEEK?
SOMETHING IN THE ARMS OF THE STATUE... GLITTERING . AAGH! WHAT...?

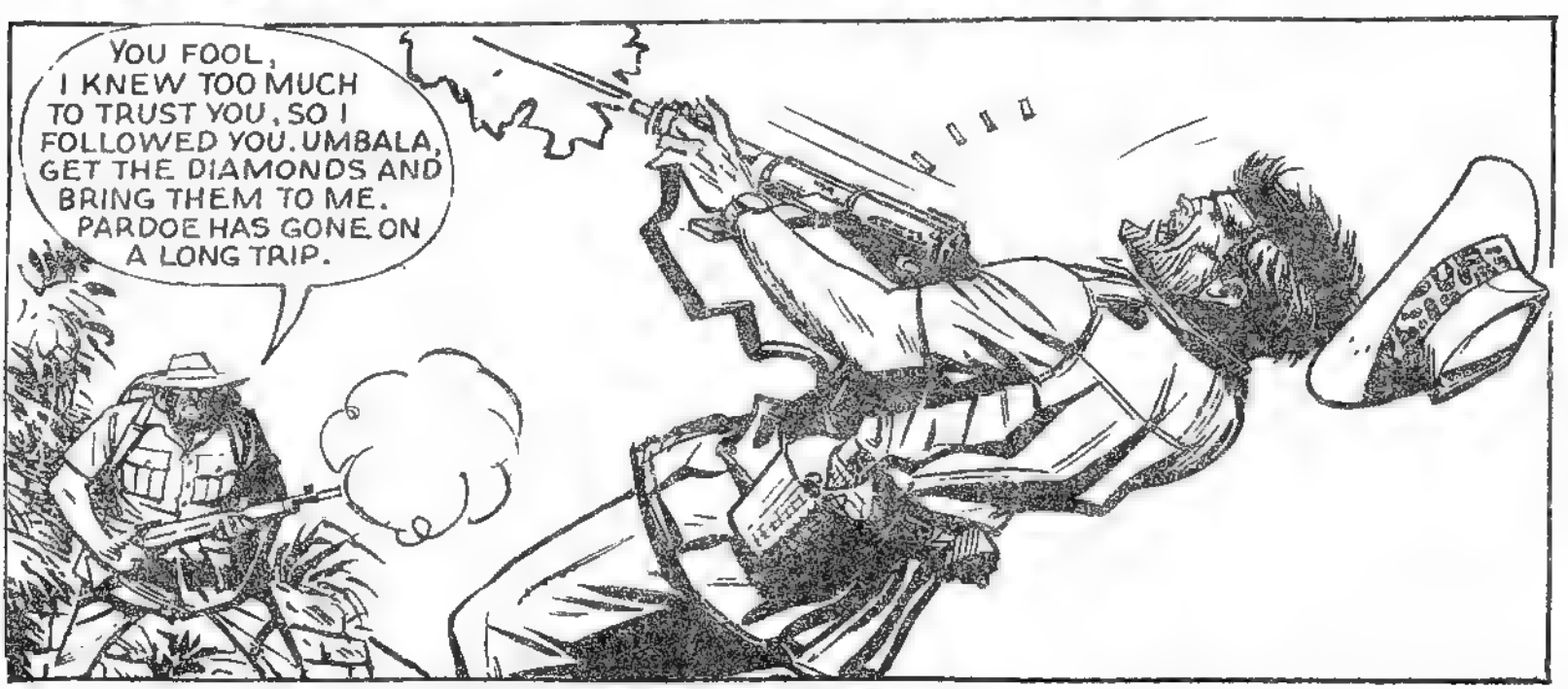
BABOONS! WHY DO THEY ATTACK — I AM KNOWN IN THE WILDS? YET THEY DO NOT USE FANGS...
THEN...
UGH!
PARDOE, ZEKE AND UMBALA STARED FASCINATED...
THE TALISMAN STATUE OF TAAL! WE'VE FOUND IT ... LOOK, THE LIGHT!
DIAMONDS! WORTH A KING'S RANSOM! NO WONDER MEN HAVE DIED FOR IT...

ZEKE, EYES ABLAZE WITH GREED, BOUNDED FORWARD...
DIAMONDS WORTH MILLIONS — AAAAAAH!
HE'S SINKING! THE GROUND'S GIVING WAY!
A BUBBLING SCREAM DIED AWAY...
VOLCANIC DUST!—SOFT AND FAR MORE DEADLY THAN QUICKSAND. TWO STEPS MORE AND WE MIGHT HAVE...
WE WERE WARNED THE LOST CITY SPELLED EVIL AND DEATH.
A RECOVERED SABER NOW UNDERSTOOD...
THE BABOONS SAVED ME! THEY STOPPED ME FROM CROSSING THE CLEARING OF DEATH. ZEKE HAS PAID THE PENALTY.

YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH, UMBALA. YOU'LL FIND A WAY. MAKE A NOOSE OF LIANA — LASSO THE STATUE AND SWING ACROSS
IT SHALL BE DONE. MY MASTER— CREEDAN—TRUSTS ME TO BRING THE DIAMONDS BACK SAFELY.
UMBALA WORKED SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY.
CREEDAN WILL GET NOTHING. ONCE UMBALA FETCHES THE STONES, UMBALA IS DEAD. I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE RICH.
THE LINE WAS DRAWN TAUT, THEN...
EASY, UMBALA —REMEMBER THE DUST. BRING THE STONES BACK IN MY RUCKSACK...

THE STATUE RADIATES EVIL! I CAN FEEL IT. THIS PLACE IS CURSED! WHAT SHOULD I DO? NO ONE WILL RECOVER THE DIAMONDS AND LIVE...

AT THAT MOMENT, A FOOTFALL MADE PARDOE TURN...
CREEDAN! IT'S YOU — HOW!


YOU FOOL, I KNEW TOO MUCH TO TRUST YOU, SO I FOLLOWED YOU. UMBALA, GET THE DIAMONDS AND BRING THEM TO ME. PARDOE HAS GONE ON A LONG TRIP.

SABER HAD MOVED SILENTLY CLOSER. HE KNEW WHAT WAS COMING — ALSO WHAT HE MUST RISK.
ONCE CREEDAN HAS THE STONES, HE WILL SLAY UMBALA, TOO. I MUST KEEP HIM OCCUPIED!
CREEDAN! I'M NOT DEAD, I'M HERE!
NO! THERE'LL BE NO MORE KILLING! GREED DRIVES YOU ALL MAD...
SABER, YOU MEDDLING FOOL—!

CREEDAN CRASHED HEADLONG...
SPEED MATCHED SPEED...
HAH, A WORTHY FOE!
WHEEEESH

THE TREACHEROUS DUST AROUND THE IDOL WAS A BOTTOMLESS QUICKSAND...
THEY'LL BOTH DIE! TWO BULLETS —AND TWO GRAVES IN THE DUST. I'LL BE LEFT ALONE— WITH THE DIAMONDS.
SABER SENSED THE MOVEMENT... AND DROPPED, PULLING THE ZULU DOWN.
DIE! BOTH OF YOU!
CRACK!

THE REPORT OF THE GUN CAUSED A TREMOR... SICKENINGLY THE GROUND SHUDDERED AND...
THE GROUND'S OPENING... NO! NO-O!

CREEDAN VANISHED INTO THE FISSURE, THEN...
GRASP MY ARM— CLIMB BEFORE THE GROUND CLOSES! THIS PLACE OF EVIL MEANS TO DEVOUR US ALL!

SABER PULLED, EVERY MUSCLE AND SINEW STRAINING...
NOW! THE EARTH CLOSES!
BY THE BONE-BITER, MY AXE...

VICTORY IS YOURS. SLAY ME WITH BONE-BITER. AS THE LOSER, I CHOOSE MY OWN WAY OF DEATH.
AS VICTOR, I CHOOSE — THAT YOU LIVE!
I HAVE KILLED MANY MEN IN FAIR BATTLE — NOW MY LIFE IS YOURS. WHERE YOU GO, I FOLLOW! YOUR CLAIM IS ON ME UNTIL I REPAY MY DEBT.
SO BE IT! THEN I CLAIM YOU AS FRIEND.

THEY LEFT TOGETHER—TWO MEN WHO WERE BOTH PROUD AND FEARLESS. THE LOST CITY OF TAAL, WHOSE SECRET MEANT DEATH, WAS TO KEEP ITS SECRET — AND THE DIAMONDS — FOR EVER...
ONE THING — WE FORGET THIS PLACE AND ALL WE HAVE SEEN. THE JUNGLE IS CLEAN. LET GREED AND TREACHERY STAY WITH THE DIAMONDS.
AS YOU SAY. I HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN!
SABER, KING OF THE JUNGLE, A LONE FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE, WOULD NEVER REST WHILE EVIL MEN LIKE CREEDAN ROAMED THE UNTAMED WILDERNESS. . .

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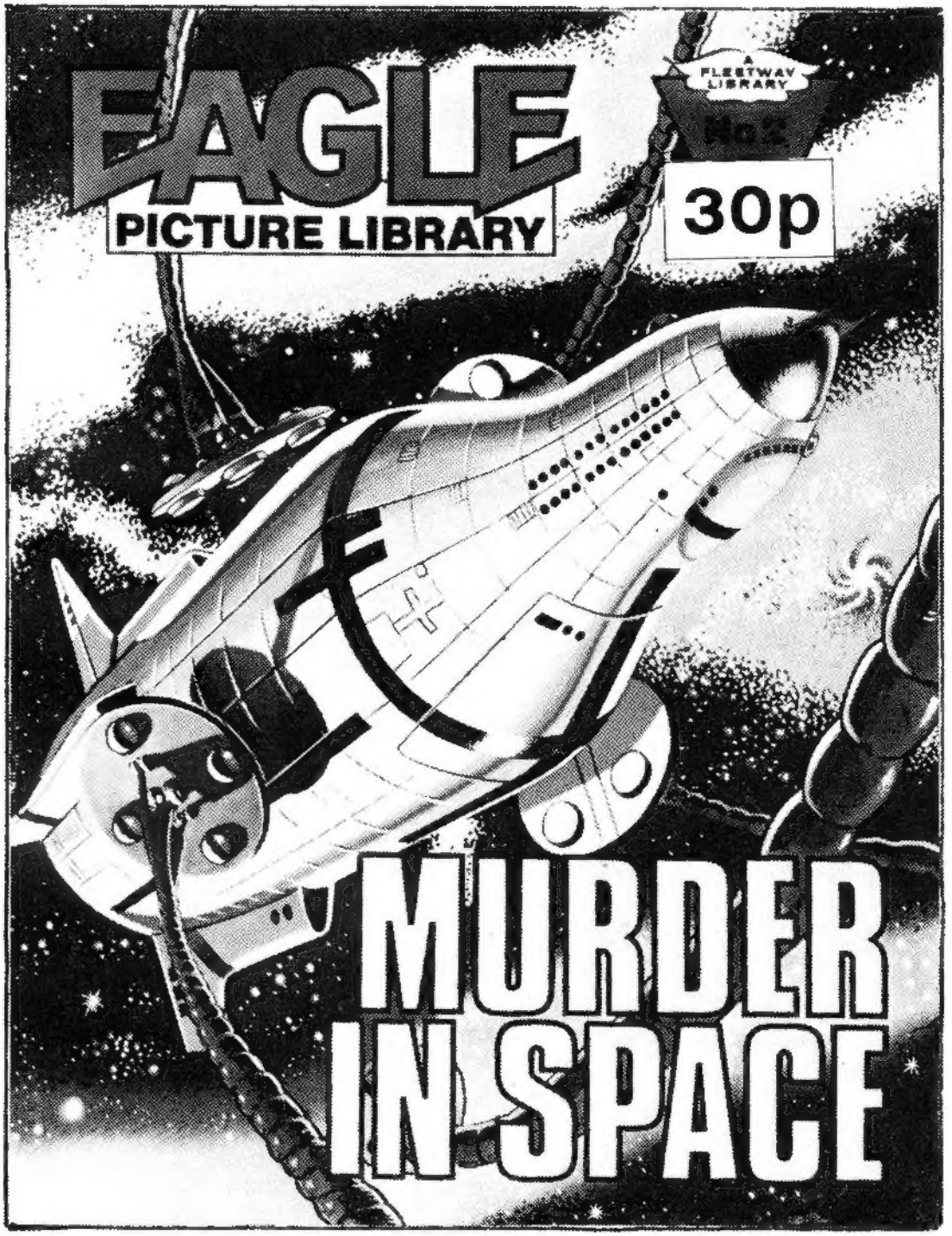

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